



WHO declares virus crisis a pandemic

By J. KEATEN, M. CHENG
and J. LEICESTER

Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — Expressing alarm both about mounting infections and inadequate government responses, the World Health Organization declared Wednesday that the global coronavirus crisis is now a pandemic but added that it's not too late for countries to act.

By reversing course and using the charged word "pandemic" that it had previously shied away from, the U.N. health agency sought to shock lethargic countries into pulling out all

the stops. "We have called every day for countries to take urgent and aggressive action. We have rung the alarm bell loud and clear," said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the WHO chief. "All countries can still change the course of this pandemic. If countries detect, test, treat, isolate, trace and mobilize their people in the response," he said. "We are deeply concerned by the alarming levels of spread and severity and by the alarming levels of inaction."

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A man and a girl on a scooter are backdropped by a Lombardy region campaign advertising reading in Italian 'Coronavirus let's stop it together', at the Porta Nuova business district in Milan, Wednesday, March 11, 2020.

Associated Press



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WHO declares virus crisis a pandemic

Continued from Front

The WHO said Iran and Italy are the new front lines of the battle against the virus that started in China. "They're suffering but I guarantee you other countries will be in that situation soon," said Dr. Mike Ryan, the WHO's emergencies chief. He added that the agency thought long and hard about labeling the crisis a pandemic — meaning a new virus causing sustained outbreaks in multiple regions of the world. The risk of employing the term, Ryan said, is "if people use it as an excuse to give up." But the benefit is "potentially of galvanizing the world to fight."

Underscoring the mounting challenge: The case count outside China has multiplied 13-fold over the last two weeks to over 118,000, with the disease now responsible for nearly 4,291 deaths, WHO said. With officials saying that Europe has become the new epicenter, Italy's cases soared again, to 12,462 infections and 827 deaths — numbers second only to China. "If you want to be blunt, Europe is the new China," said Robert Redfield, the head of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Italy weighed imposing even tighter restrictions on daily life and announced billions in financial relief Wednesday to cushion

economic shocks from the coronavirus, its latest efforts to adjust to the fast-evolving crisis that silenced the usually bustling heart of the Catholic faith, St. Peter's Square. In Iran, by far the hardest-hit country in the Middle East, the senior vice president and two other Cabinet ministers were reported to have been diagnosed with COVID-19, the illness caused by the virus. Iran reported another jump in deaths, by 62 to 354 — behind only China and Italy. In Italy, Premier Giuseppe Conte said he would consider requests from Lombardy, Italy's hardest-hit region, to toughen the already extraordinary anti-virus lockdown that was extended nationwide



The cruise ship Aidamar is docked at the Port of Zeebrugge, Belgium, Wednesday, March 11, 2020.

Associated Press

Tuesday. Lombardy wants to shut down nonessential businesses and reduce public transportation. These measures would be on top of travel and social restrictions that imposed an eerie hush on cities and towns across the country. Police enforced rules that customers stay 1 meter (3 feet) apart and ensured that businesses closed by 6 p.m. Milan shopkeeper Claudia Sabbatini said she favored the stricter measures. Rather than risk customers possibly infecting each other in her children's clothing store, she closed it. "I cannot have people standing at a distance. Children must try on the clothes. We have to know if they will fit," she said. Still, the effectiveness of such measures as travel restrictions and quarantines will likely drop substantially and be called into question as COVID-19 spreads globally, making it impossible for countries to keep the virus out. Health officials will also need to be more flexible in their coordinated response efforts, as the epicenters are likely to shift quickly and dramatically — as the recent eruptions in Iran and Italy have demonstrated. Conte emphasized fighting the outbreak must not

come at the expense of civil liberties, suggesting that Italy is unlikely to adopt the draconian quarantine measures that helped China push down new infections from thousands per day to a trickle now and allowed its manufacturers to restart production lines. China's new worry is that the coronavirus could re-enter from abroad. Beijing's city government announced that all overseas visitors will be quarantined for 14 days. Of 24 new cases that China reported Wednesday, five arrived from Italy and one from the United States. China has had over 81,000 virus infections and over 3,000 deaths. For most, the coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. But for a few, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illnesses, including pneumonia. More than 121,000 people have been infected worldwide and over 4,300 have died. But most people recover. People with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover, the WHO says. □

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FAA waives rules that led airlines to fly empty planes

By **DAVID KOENIG**
AP Airlines Writer

Federal regulators waived a rule Wednesday that was causing airlines to fly nearly empty planes just to avoid losing takeoff and landing rights at major airports.

The Federal Aviation Administration said it would suspend the rule through May 31 to help airlines that are canceling flights because of the new virus outbreak.

The FAA assigns takeoff and landing rights, or "slots," at a few big, congested airports. Airlines must use

80% of their highly coveted slots or risk forfeiting them. That FAA requirement — and especially a similar rule in Europe — led airlines to operate flights using those slots even if there were very few passengers.

The FAA's decision affects flights at John F. Kennedy and LaGuardia airports in New York and Reagan Washington National Airport outside Washington, D.C.

The FAA said it also would not punish airlines that cancel flights through May 31 at four other airports

where the agency approves schedules: Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey; Los Angeles International Airport and San Francisco International Airport. The FAA waiver covers U.S. and foreign airlines. The agency's announcement came a day after the European Commission promised to move quickly to waive its similar rule.

It could take weeks or even months for the European Commission to adopt the proposal, but it is likely to



In this Jan. 10, 2020 file photo, a commercial plane flies into a windy, cloudy sky at the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.



Associated Press


have immediate effect. It is a signal to airlines that they can stop flying mostly empty planes and still be confi-

dent that the emergency rules change will be approved before airport slots are allotted again. □

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Congress acts to limit Trump on military action in Iran

By **MATTHEW DALY**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defying a veto threat, Congress has approved a bipartisan measure to limit President Donald Trump's authority to launch military operations against Iran.

The House gave final legislative approval to the measure Wednesday, 227-186, sending it to Trump. The president has promised to veto the war powers resolution, warning that if his "hands were tied, Iran would have a field day."

The resolution, sponsored by Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., declares that Trump must win approval from Congress before engaging in further military action against Iran. Kaine and other supporters say the measure is not about Trump or even the presidency, but instead is an important reassertion of congressional power to declare war.

Six Republicans joined 220 Democrats and independent Rep. Justin Amash of Michigan to support the measure. Six Democrats and 180 Republicans opposed it. In the Senate last month, eight Republicans backed the resolution.

The resolution "sends a clear message that the American people don't want war with Iran and that Congress has not authorized war with Iran," said Rep. Eliot Engel, D-N.Y., chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

While tensions with Iran have abated since a U.S. drone strike that killed Iran's top general in early January, the resolution clarifying Congress' power to declare war is still important, Engel said.

"Congress doesn't have to wait until the president alone decides to use military force again," Engel



House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Eliot Engel, D-N.Y., left, and ranking member Rep. Michael McCaul, R-Texas, talk during a House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing in Washington, Friday, Feb. 28, 2020, as Secretary of State Mike Pompeo testifies.

told House members during floor debate Wednesday. "It's our responsibility to do something, because we know the tensions could flare up again at a moment's notice. Iran has not been deterred as the administration promised."

Texas Rep. Michael McCaul, the top Republican on the Foreign Affairs Committee, called the war powers measure "divisive and irresponsible" and based on a false premise.

"It orders the president to terminate hostilities against Iran. The problem is, for the other side, we are not engaged in hostilities in Iran," McCaul said.

If the U.S. military launches strikes in Iran, "I believe that the president would need to come before this body to ask for a new authorization" for the use of force, McCaul said. "But that is not what we are facing."

The House vote marked a rare exertion of authority from Congress, which also moved to impose restric-

tions on U.S. involvement with the Saudi-led war in Yemen last year after U.S.-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi was killed in a gruesome murder at Saudi Arabia's consulate in Turkey.

Trump promptly vetoed that measure.

The Democratic-controlled House passed a separate, nonbinding resolution on Iran in January, a few weeks before the Senate approved Kaine's resolution. Two-thirds votes in the House and the GOP-run Senate would be needed to override an expected Trump veto.

Kaine hailed the House vote.

"For years, Congress has abdicated its responsibility on matters of war, but now a bipartisan majority in both the Senate and House has made clear that we shouldn't be engaged in hostilities with Iran without a vote of Congress," he said in a statement.

The legislation "doesn't pre-

Kaine added. "If President Trump is serious about his promise to stop endless wars, he will sign this resolution into law."

In a statement of administration policy, the White House said the resolution should be rejected "because it attempts to hinder the president's ability to protect" U.S. diplomats, forces, allies and partners, including Israel, from the continued threat posed by Iran and its proxies, including militia groups and foreign fighters in Syria.

"Iran has a long history of attacking United States and coalition forces both directly and through its proxies," the White House said, adding the congressional resolution could hinder Trump's ability to protect U.S. forces and interests in the region.

"This joint resolution is untimely and misguided. Its adoption by Congress could undermine the ability of the United States to protect American citizens whom Iran continues to seek to harm," the White House said. □

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Suit filed over Sandy Hook-inspired law limiting gun rounds

By DAVE COLLINS

Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) —

Gun rights supporters are suing Connecticut officials over part of a 2013 state gun control law passed after the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, saying it unconstitutionally bans people from loading more than 10 rounds of ammunition into their firearms. The lawsuit filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court cites the Second Amendment right to bear arms and the ability of people to better defend themselves with more bullets in their guns.

"Law abiding gun owners in Connecticut are left more susceptible to harm or death by being limited in their means of self-defense," Holly Sullivan, president of the Connecticut Citizens Defense League, said in a written statement. "Criminals who are intent on doing harm will not follow this same law."

The defense league, the Second Amendment Foundation and two Connecticut gun owners filed the lawsuit against Public Safety Commissioner James Rovella, state police Col. Stavros Mellekas and Chief State's Attorney Richard Colangelo Jr., none of whom were in their current jobs when the gun control law was passed.

"This is a legal process, in which they were named as a result of their current position," said Brian Foley, a top aide to Rovella, who oversees state police. "We will work through this important process, unfortunately we cannot comment further." The U.S. Supreme Court has held that states can regulate firearms to protect public safety, said state Attorney General William Tong, whose office will defend state officials and the gun law.

"Commonsense gun violence prevention measures are clearly constitutional," Tong said in a written statement. "Reasonable limits on high capacity magazines save lives. The vast majority of the American people support — and demand — these basic public safety



In this April 10, 2013 file photo, Jonathan Scalise, owner of Ammunition Storage Components, holds up a 10-round, left, and a 30-round magazine that his company manufactures for the AR-15 rifle in New Britain, Conn.

Associated Press

measures."

State officials passed some of the strictest gun control laws in the country after a gunman used an AR-15-style rifle to kill 20 young children and six educators at Sandy Hook in Newtown on Dec. 14, 2012.

The laws included a ban on ammunition magazines that hold more than 10 bullets. People who owned "large capacity" magazines that hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition before the law took effect were required to notify the state Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and were allowed to keep them, but are prohibited from putting more than 10 rounds in them.

Gun control supporters say the law can save lives by limiting how many bullets a shooter can fire before having to reload. It was approved by former Gov. Dannel Malloy, a Democrat, and the Democratic-controlled legislature.

But gun rights supporters say that magazines that hold more than 10 rounds are considered standard and that many firearms are not available with magazines that hold fewer than 10 rounds.

"This law does nothing more than penalize law-abiding citizens while criminalizing components of handguns they own that were previ-

ously legal," said Allan Gottlieb, founder and executive vice president of the Second Amendment Foundation, based in Bellevue, Washington.

The two gun owners suing the state are Susan Ross, of East Haddam, and Domenic Basile, of Watertown, who both own handguns with magazines designed to hold more than 10 rounds.

"A person with 15 rounds of ammunition available will be better able to defend himself or herself from a criminal gang, or from a drug-crazed criminal who continues attacking even after being shot, than a person who has only 10 rounds of ammunition

available before they must reload their gun," the lawsuit says.

Po Murray, chairwoman of the Newtown Action Alliance, said the lawsuit should be dismissed in the interest of public safety and public health. The alliance was formed to prevent gun violence after the Sandy Hook shooting.

"Assault weapons and high capacity magazines are the weapons of choice for mass shooters," she said. "The U.S. Constitution must protect the lives of innocent children and adults in schools not the gun lobby's pursuit of profits selling weapons of war designed to efficiently kill maximum number of people." □

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AP Exclusive: Inside massive DEA raid targeting drug cartel

By **MICHAEL BALSAMO**

Associated Press

CHANTILLY, Va. (AP) — In the darkness, the team suits up quietly, putting on their helmets and tactical gear. Federal agents lug battering rams, bolt cutters and heavy weaponry by foot up a hill on a residential California street that's softly aglow from street lamps. Then the agents turn onto the walkway of their target's home.

"Police! Search warrant!" one officer yells as agents bang on the front door. "Police search warrant!" And then three thunderous bangs as the task force breaks down the front door. Moments later, a reputed member of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel, known as CJNG, is walked out in handcuffs.

In early-morning raids Wednesday, agents fanned out across the United States, culminating a six-month investigation with the primary goal of dismantling the upper echelon of CJNG and hoping to get closer to capturing its leader, one of the most wanted men in America. There's a \$10 million reward for the arrest of Nemesio "El Mencho" Oseguera.

The gang controls between one-third and two-thirds of the U.S. drug market. It is so violent that members leave piles of bodies in streets and hanging from overpasses in Mexico, and they fill the city of Guadalajara with mass graves. They carry machine guns and hand grenades. They once used rocket launchers to shoot down a Mexican military helicopter.

More than 600 people have been arrested during the operation in recent months, more than 15,000 kilos of meth was seized and nearly \$20 million taken as search and arrest warrants were executed. About 250 were arrested Wednesday.

"El Mencho and his associates prey on the addicts, and they prey on small towns where they can act as bullies and infiltrate these small towns," said Wendy Woolcok, the

special agent in charge of Drug Enforcement Administration's special operations division. "They promise

nia, about a dozen team members prepped early Wednesday for their target. They searched the home,

found inside the homes being searched. The special agent in charge of the special operations

formed in 2010 from a wing of the Sinaloa cartel based in the western city of Guadalajara. While it once specialized in producing methamphetamine, like most Mexican cartels it has expanded into multidrug shipments including fentanyl, cocaine, meth and heroin.

The cartel is led by the elusive Oseguera, whose bodyguards once shot down a Mexican military helicopter to prevent his arrest. In recent weeks, prosecutors have brought charges against his son, Nemesio Oseguera, also known as "El Menchito" and his daughter, Jessica Johanna Oseguera.

And officials say he's more dangerous than reputed Mexican drug kingpin and escape artist Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, who as leader of the Sinaloa cartel ran a massive drug conspiracy that spread murder and mayhem for more than two decades.

"I think the threat from El Mencho and CJNG is greater right now because in my opinion, at the time Chapo was captured or at the time he was kind of at his heyday, so to speak, the Sinaloa Cartel was fractured, it was a little broken up," Bodner said.

El Chapo was a little flashier, but Mencho and the Jalisco gang see their drug business as just that -- business, Bodner said.

"They have a little bit more discipline. They're not necessarily into the partying and living the good life, it's just about the business of drug trafficking and control, and that's what makes them scarier, Bodner said.

The Jalisco cartel is also known for brazen tactics such as driving around in convoys of pickup trucks marked with the letters "CJNG" and for circulating videos of heavily-armed cartel gunmen in military-style dress. While Mexico says it is no longer concentrating on detaining drug lords, the Mexican government has extradited Oseguera's son and has detained some of his associates. □



DEA agents search a residential house during an arrest of a suspected drug trafficker on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 in Diamond Bar, Calif.

Associated Press

hope, and they deliver despair."

For the U.S., combating Mexico's fastest-growing and most violent gang is a top priority. Law enforcement officials believe the gang has drug distribution hubs in Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, Houston and Atlanta. It is believed to have a presence in 24 of Mexico's 32 states.

Unlike other cartels, CJNG shows no reluctance in directly attacking police and army patrols and is blamed for the deadliest attacks against law enforcement forces in Mexico. In eliminating rivals, it has carried out spectacular acts of violence.

"Their propensity to violence is a big part of it, they're very violent organization, they're a well-armed organization, but really the gasoline that was thrown on the fire was synthetic drugs," said Bill Bodner, the special agent in charge of the DEA's field office in Los Angeles.

The Associated Press had exclusive access to the raid outside Los Angeles and the national command center. In Califor-

a stately, salmon-colored Spanish Colonial-style with a large chandelier in the foyer, palm trees in the front yard, and crawled on the ground to look under cars, including a black Lexus, in the driveway. No shots were fired.

Victor Ochoa, 34, was arrested on drug charges. The DEA alleges he acts as a stash house manager for the cartel. It wasn't clear yet whether he had a defense attorney.

At the command center tucked inside a nondescript government building in northern Virginia, a group of a dozen analysts and agents sat behind computer screens inside a conference room that's been converted into a command center. As agents were banging down doors across the country, the phones rang at the command center and analysts recorded the number of arrests and amount of drugs seized on printed worksheets.

An analyst entered the information into a DEA computer screen as other analysts ran phone numbers, addresses and nicknames

division assembled with her team in front of a heat map — red dots glowing darker and darker as more arrests are made, primarily in Texas, California and New Jersey. By 9 a.m., more than 60 people had been taken into custody.

Assistant Attorney General Brian Benczkowski, head of the Justice Department's criminal division, called the operation "the most comprehensive action to date in the Department of Justice's effort to disrupt, dismantle and ultimately destroy CJNG"

While Mexican drug cartels made their money predominantly from marijuana in past decades, the market has somewhat dissipated with the state-level legalization of cannabis in dozens of states across the U.S.

Now, they've turned to methamphetamine and fentanyl, selling it at almost 14 times the price it cost to make and flooding the streets of the U.S., fueling homelessness and the opioid crisis, and leaving behind another trail of bodies: from overdoses.

The Jalisco Cartel was



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Chicago, other cities, cancel St. Patrick's Day parades

By **DON BABWIN**
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Chicago on Wednesday joined the ranks of cities around the world to scrap St. Patrick's Day parades amid concerns about spread of the new coronavirus, calling off an event that attracts tens of thousands of revelers who line the streets, pack themselves into pubs and peer into a river that every year is turned bright green. Chicago's mayor said she couldn't risk the kind of gathering that scientists warn could hasten the further spread of COVID-19. "Like cities across the nation, we concluded that having a parade at this time posed an unnecessary risk to the public's health," Mayor Lori Lightfoot told reporters at a news confer-

ence with a supportive Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker.

Chicago's parade had been scheduled for Saturday, ahead of St. Patrick's Day on Tuesday.

"We all know what the St. Patrick's Day celebrations mean to the city of Chicago," said Pritzker, a Democrat. "Because of what we've seen nationally, and across the world, of the increased risk of large gatherings, this was the right call."

Indeed, it was deemed the right call in cities from Boston and Philadelphia to Denver and San Francisco. The cities of Dublin — the one in Ohio and the one in Ireland — also pulled the plugs on their parades.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symp-

toms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

The cancellations come as the number of confirmed coronavirus cases climbs. In the U.S., the total has topped 1,000. Worldwide, more than 119,000 have been infected, and more than 4,200 have died. Lightfoot's announcement came a day after officials announced that the number of cases in Illinois had climbed by eight to 19.

The vast majority of people recover from the new virus. According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe ill-



In this March 17, 2018 file photo, boats move through the water as the Chicago River is dyed green for St. Patrick's Day in Chicago. **Associated Press**

ness may take three to six weeks to recover.

Some cities were still considering what to do about their St. Patrick's Day parades. On Wednesday, the City Council in Savannah, Georgia, announced it would hold an emergency meeting later in the day to discuss the city's 196-year-old parade. Savannah and surrounding Chatham County so far have no confirmed COVID-19 cases.

The city's weekend festivities and March 17 parade draws crowds approaching a half million people, potentially more than tripling the size of the

146,000-resident city for a few days.

In Chicago, the cancellation of Saturday's parade is bad news for the restaurants that usually are packed with revelers all day and well into the night. "For us it's devastating," said Kieran Aherne, regional manager of Fado Irish Pub, four blocks from the Chicago River that ordinarily would be dyed green. "Saturday is bigger here than St. Patrick's Day and this will be a six-figure loss for us."

In a news release, Lightfoot's office said the city will work with organizers to reschedule the parade. □

Woman convicted in death of anti-gang crusader

CENTRAL ISLIP, N.Y. (AP) — A woman who drove her SUV over a New York mother who had been saluted by President Donald Trump for her crusade against gang violence was found guilty Wednesday of all charges. Annmarie Drago was convicted of criminally negligent homicide, petit larceny and criminal mischief in the September 2018 death of Evelyn Rodriguez.

Rodriguez became a symbol in the fight against MS-13 gang violence after her 16-year-old daughter was hacked and beaten to death along with a friend on a suburban Long Island street. She was killed after confronting Drago for trashing a memorial set up for the second anniversary of the girl's death near the spot where she was slain. Prosecutors said the me-



In this Nov. 29, 2018 file photo, Annmarie Drago appears at Suffolk County District Court in Central Islip, N.Y. **Associated Press**

morial was in front of Drago's mother's home and was concerned it would scare off potential buyers. The fatal SUV strike was recorded by a television news crew that was rolling as dignitaries, including a congressman, prepared to

head to the scene in Brentwood for a vigil.

Drago's defense team has said she never intended to hurt anyone and was only trying to escape Rodriguez and her companion.

Drago faces up to four years in prison. □



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Facing recession, Europe grasps for ways to limit damage

By **DAVID McHUGH**

AP Business Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— Suddenly staring recession in the face, European leaders are lining up an array of tax breaks, financial support for companies and likely central bank measures in the hope of preventing the coronavirus outbreak from dealing long-term damage to the economy.

Expectations have grown that European Central Bank officials will announce more monetary stimulus when they meet Thursday, after the Bank of England acted Wednesday and the U.S. Federal Reserve last week.

The European Commission plans to set up a 25 billion-euro (\$28 billion) investment fund to support the health care system, businesses and labor market measures. The Italian and British governments are offering separate packages of at least the same size.

Yet any such actions will likely be more damage limitation than cure.

Monetary stimulus and government spending can spur demand for goods. But the coronavirus deals a shock from the supply side by closing businesses and making people stay home, highlighted by Italy's dramatic decision this week to limit travel and public gatherings across the country. Lower interest rates or tax cuts cannot solve that.

Meanwhile, action to help



European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde talks to German Finance Minister Olaf Scholz during a meeting of European Union Finance Ministers in Eurogroup format at the Justus Lipsius building in Brussels, Monday, Feb. 17, 2020.

the 19 countries that use the euro currency faces constraints from the lack of a large central treasury, a hurdle other large economies like the U.S. and China do not face.

"The world is facing a medical emergency that monetary and fiscal policy cannot fix," said Holger Schmieding, chief economist at Berenberg private bank.

The best policymakers can do for the economy is to prevent the virus from dealing prolonged damage even after the outbreak ends, to keep small- and medium-sized companies that provide most of the jobs in the economy from going out of business due

to a short-term issue beyond their control.

Marco Tronchetti Provera, CEO of Italian tire maker Pirelli, said that decisive action on a large scale was needed: "Very quickly, we need to be ready to make a large plan of investments also at the European level in order to recover."

"It is a war that can be very short, with a contained number of victims. It is a very quick war if we handle it properly."

One employee at Pirelli's main Italian production plant near Turin tested positive for the virus, requiring the company to reduce production due to sanitation work as well as measures to put more space

between worker. Tronchetti Provera said Pirelli had learned from its experience coping with the outbreak in China, where it has three plants, and is still able to ship tires from Italy, which accounts for 6-7% of global production.

Besides manufacturers, among the most affected companies are those involved in travel. The number of people going through European airports is expected to fall by 187 million this year, hurting hotels, restaurants, cab-drivers and airlines, among others. Lufthansa is cutting up to half of its flights from April. Ryanair suspended all flights to and from Italy. Trade fairs have been can-

celed and football matches are taking place in empty stadiums.

The investment fund announced Tuesday by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen draws from the existing EU budget and amounts to only some 0.1% of the annual 18.8 trillion euro (\$20.7 trillion) EU economy.

Von der Leyen said national leaders including German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron agreed during a video conference Tuesday to "use all the tools at our disposal so that the European economy weathers this storm." That includes being flexible in EU rules limiting debt and coming up with clear guidelines on permissible state aid to companies.

At the national level, Italy, which has been hit hardest by far by the virus outbreak, is earmarking 25 billion euros to confront the crisis. It will support health services, ensure people do not lose jobs due to travel restrictions and support families by, for example, delaying payments on mortgages and taxes.

Britain, no longer a member of the European Union but still an important trade partner, made available 30 billion pounds (\$39 billion) in its new budget to cushion the impact of the outbreak. The Bank of England added stimulus by cutting a key interest benchmark to 0.25% from 0.75%. □

Associated Press

France, Spain honor hundreds of terrorism victims, vow unity



French President Emmanuel Macron delivers his speech during a ceremony to honor victims of terror attacks in Europe, at the Trocadero in Paris, Wednesday March 11, 2020.

Associated Press

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — The president of France and the king of Spain paid homage Wednesday to victims of terrorism in a special ceremony prompted by attacks that hit both their countries and changed Europe's security posture. France's Emmanuel Macron and Spain's King Felipe and Queen Letizia led a ceremony on Trocadero plaza overlooking the Eiffel Tower with survivors of terrorist attacks and families

of victims. The European Union chose March 11 as a day of continent-wide commemoration of terrorism victims after the Madrid train bombing on March 11, 2004 that killed nearly 200 people and woke Europe up to 21st century threats of Islamic extremism.

Macron paid tribute to the victims of a string of attacks in France, starting with shootings in 2012 that killed children at a Jewish school, a rabbi and para-

troopers in the Toulouse region.

Extremists claiming links to the Islamic State group or Al-Qaida hit France repeatedly in 2015 and 2016. Among their victims: cartoonists at satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo, shoppers at a kosher market, concert-goers at the Bataclan, diners in Paris cafes, an elderly priest at the altar, holiday revelers on the seaside of Nice, and several police officers. □

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Ex-French prime minister's wife is key figure in fraud trial

By SYLVIE CORBET and NICOLAS VAUX-MONTAGNY

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — For over three decades, Penelope Fillon was known as the very discreet wife of a prominent politician who became France's prime minister. She is now at center stage of a fraud trial in Paris for well-paid, public-funded jobs as an aide to her husband that she allegedly did not perform.

The Fillons have denied wrongdoing.

The trial ending Wednesday is set to determine whether Penelope Fillon's activities were in the traditional role of an elected official's partner — or involved actual paid work.

The scandal, revealed by the French press just three months before the country's 2017 presidential election, cost ex-Prime Minister Francois Fillon his reputation. Once the front-runner, Fillon sunk to third place in the presidential race won by Emmanuel Macron.

The long-standing practice of French politicians hiring family members for well-paid public jobs while other French workers were struggling created a backlash of public anger against France's political elite.

Prosecutors lashed out at what they called "fraudulent, systematic practices." They requested five years in prison, including a three-year suspended sentence, and a 375,000 euro (\$417,870) fine against Francois Fillon, and a three-year suspended sentence and the same fine against his wife.

The verdict will be rendered



France's former Prime Minister Francois Fillon, left, and his wife Penelope, arrive at the Paris courthouse, in Paris, Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020.

on June 29.

Fillon has been charged with the misuse of public funds, receiving money from the misuse of public funds and the misappropriation of company assets. His wife has been charged mostly as an accomplice. Her aide work brought the family more than 1 million euros (\$1.08 million) since 1998. Her previous jobs were subject to the statute of limitations.

British-born Penelope Fillon, 64, told the court how she came to France to study literature, met Fillon and got married in 1980.

When he was first elected as a French lawmaker in 1981, she decided to support his career at a local level in the small town Sable-sur-Sarthe, in rural western France. That's when she started helping him, no matter whether she was being paid for the job or not, she said.

Over the years, she was offered different types of contracts as a parliamentary assistant, depending on her husband's political career.

Speaking with a barely audible voice, she often remained vague and hesitant in her answers.

She detailed her mission as mostly writing reports about local issues, opening the mail, meeting with residents, writing press reviews and help to prepare speeches for local events. She said working that way allowed her to have a flexible schedule and raise their five children in the Fillons' countryside manor.

Prosecutors said her wages — up to nine times France's minimum salary — appeared to depend on the available financing from the National Assembly rather than the nature of her work.

"I believe my husband de-

cided the amount based on the financing he had at his disposal," she said.

Prosecutor Aurelien Letocart pointed at the lack of actual evidence of her work, including the absence of declarations for any paid vacations or maternity leaves.

Penelope Fillon acknowledged difficulties in exactly estimating her working hours and said her husband was the one who decided the length of her contracts and other details like bonuses she got.

When she was first interviewed by investigators, Penelope Fillon forgot to mention her first jobs with her husband in the 1980s.

"I believe that in this room, most people would remember well their first professional experience," the president of the court noted.

The Fillons tried to use "all casual tasks and gestures

of everyday life to magnify the reality," Letocart argued. "Meeting with voters, getting the children from school, going shopping or reading mail is not intended to be paid work."

In contrast to his wife, Francois Fillon, 65, appeared confident and determined in court and insisted his wife's job was real. He noted he was first elected at 27 — then the youngest lawmaker at the National Assembly.

"We both immersed in a way of life that is a little like the priesthood, 7 days a week, 365 days a year," he said.

Francois Fillon insisted that, according to the separation of powers, the justice system cannot interfere with how a lawmaker organizes work at his office.

"I am the one deciding the aides' wages," Fillon said. "I am not accountable to anyone."

In addition, charges also cover a contract that allowed Penelope Fillon to earn 135,000 euros in 2012-2013 as a consultant for a literary magazine owned by a friend of her husband — also an alleged fake job. The magazine owner, Marc de Lacharriere, already pleaded guilty and was given a suspended eight-month prison sentence and fined 375,000 euros in 2018. Fillon served as prime minister under president Nicolas Sarkozy from 2007 to 2012. He was also a minister under two previous presidents, Francois Mitterrand and Jacques Chirac.

He left French politics in 2017 and now works for an asset management company. □

Afghans set to release 1,500 Taliban; US wants less violence



Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, center, opens his coat after a few rockets are fired during his speech after being sworn, at his inauguration ceremony at the presidential palace in Kabul, Afghanistan, Monday, March 9, 2020.

Associated Press

By **RAHIM FAIEZ and TAMEEM AKHGAR**
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)

— After a series of delays, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani issued a decree early Wednesday promising to release 1,500 Taliban prisoners as a goodwill gesture to get intra-Afghan negotiations started.

A recent peace deal signed between the United States and the Taliban called for the release of up to 5,000 prisoners ahead of the much sought-after negotiations.

There was no official response from the Taliban, but The Associated Press saw a letter that Mullah Nooruddin Turabi, head of the Taliban's Prisoners Commission, sent to prisoners, their families and Taliban leaders. The letter promised there would be no intra-Afghan talks until all the prisoners are released.

The Pashto-language letter was sent last weekend. It says the Taliban would verify that each prisoner released is among those on the list given to an American delegation.

However, Ghani's decree went on to say that the first round of 1,500 prisoners will be selected based on age, health and the length of their sentences already served. The released prisoners, who will be bio-

metrically identified, will also have to give a written guarantee that they will not return to the battlefield. The remaining 3,500 prisoners will be released after intra-Afghan negotiations begin and 500 will be released every two weeks providing the Taliban reduce violence on the battlefield, Ghani's decree said.

However, even if the Taliban agree to start negotiations, Kabul's political turmoil and relentless bickering between Ghani and his main rival, Abdullah Abdullah — who has also sworn himself in as Afghanistan's president — have left Kabul struggling to come up with a united negotiating team.

Washington's peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, in an interview with Afghanistan's private TOLO TV on Wednesday, struck a hopeful note that negotiations would be able to start soon.

"What is important for its start is the introduction of an inclusive Afghan negotiating team," he said.

Khalilzad is struggling to get Afghanistan's fractious leaders to unite. Abdullah has rejected an offer to be the head of a high peace council, he said, and Khalilzad gave no indication when the two sides might be able to find a compromise.

"In such a crucial time there has to be an agreement. We want an independent, united and self-sustained Afghanistan," he said.

"Not an Afghanistan in which a part of it is controlled by the Taliban, a part of it would be controlled by Ghani's government and the other part would be controlled by Abdullah's government."

"The reason for our negotiations for more than a year with the Taliban is that we want a peace to come to Afghanistan so there is no need for American forces and if Afghans don't want the presence of American forces in Afghanistan, the U.S. could withdraw," Khalilzad said.

Ghani's prisoner decree came as the U.S. State Department issued a statement saying that the level of violence is "unacceptable," and that while the Taliban have stopped attacks against the U.S.-led coalition forces and in Afghan cities, the violence in the countryside remains too high.

The statement also said Afghanistan's "presidential electoral crisis" — an apparent reference to the two inaugurations and political chaos — has delayed the establishment of a national negotiating team and the start of intra-Afghan talks, which were to begin Tuesday in Oslo, Norway. □

Opposition blames gov't for New Delhi rioting that killed 52



In this March 2, 2020 file photo, India's opposition Congress party workers burn an effigy of Indian Home Minister Amit Shah as they protest against the previous week's deadly communal riots in New Delhi, India.

Associated Press

By **ASHOK SHARMA**

Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — India's powerful lower house of Parliament on Wednesday debated the worst Hindu-Muslim violence in decades in the Indian capital, with an angry opposition demanding a judicial probe and the resignation of the home minister for the police's failure to prevent the deaths of more than 50 people. Opposition Congress party lawmakers walked out after Home Minister Amit Shah praised the police for ending the rioting in northeastern areas of the capital within 36 hours and preventing it from spreading across New Delhi.

The violence coincided with a state visit by U.S. President Donald Trump on Feb. 24-25. Armed mobs of Muslims and Hindus threw rocks, exchanged gunfire and burned hundreds of vehicles, homes and businesses.

Shah blamed inflammatory speeches by the Congress party and some Muslim leaders for triggering the rioting. He said 52 people were killed on Feb. 24 and 25 and 526 were injured. He declined to say how many were Hindus or Muslims.

Shah said 300 people came from neighboring Uttar Pradesh state to join the rioting. More than 2,600 people have been arrested or detained and an investigation is underway, he said.

He didn't say who allegedly brought the 300 people to New Delhi.

Asauddin Owaisi, chief of the opposition All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen party, accused Hindu nationalists of spreading hatred of minority Muslims.

The clashes followed an opposition protest against a new citizenship law that fast-tracks naturalization for foreign-born religious minorities of all major faiths in South Asia except Islam.

Adhir Ranjan Chaudhary, a Congress party leader, accused the police of ignoring hundreds of distress calls from people who were under attack and failing to protect them.

"In light of the scale of violence and consequent loss of lives and property, we strongly demand the resignation of the home minister," he said.

He also demanded a judicial probe into the failure of the police to protect people and the prosecution of some governing Bharatiya Janata Party leaders for provocative speeches against the Muslim community.

Meenakshi Lekhi, an BJP lawmaker, accused the Popular Front of India, a militant Islamic organization, and elements of the Islamic State group of organizing the violence during Trump's visit to disgrace Hindu nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government. □

U.S. heart surgeon treats children lacking care in Libya's war

By **MSTYSLAV CHERNOV**
and **FELIPE DANA**
Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — Yazan, a 1-year-old Libyan boy, was born with congenital heart disease. With just one chamber, the organ pumped so little blood that when Yazan cried, his skin turned black. Without surgery, he would not survive. But Yazan's country, Libya, has only one heart surgeon who can't possibly perform surgeries on 1,200 or so infants born every year with heart defects. Of those, typically some 150 are in dire need of surgery and die in their first year, said William Novick, an American pediatric cardiac surgeon.

His international team of experts, part of the Novick Cardiac Alliance, regularly flies into Libya to perform surgery on patients like Yazan.

"To me this is simply an unacceptable situation that needs our attention," said Novick, who lives in Memphis, Tennessee.

The medical trips help prop up Libya's fragile health care system, which the World Health Organization has described as overburdened, inefficient and short of medicine and equipment.

Libya has been plunged into chaos since 2011, when a civil war toppled longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi, who was later killed. Eastern-based opposition forces attacked Tripoli last spring to wrest it



Yazan, 1, sits with his mother before his heart surgery at the Tajoura National Heart Center in Tripoli, Libya, on Feb. 27, 2020.

from control of the weak U.N.-backed government. The fierce round of fighting has killed hundreds of civilians, including at least 13 children since mid-January. Novick's team was the best, and perhaps last, hope for Yazan. But that meant his family had to travel to the most dangerous place in the war-ravaged country — the capital Tripoli, where the Tajoura National Heart Center is located.

Yazan's odyssey from his small desert hometown barely skirted the war's front lines. With key highways blocked because of fighting, his family took a 1,500-kilometer (932-mile) detour.

"You can't come to Tripoli

like before," said Yazan's father, Im Saleh Mohamed Abudulfetah.

On Feb. 26, Yazan's perilous trek culminated in a five-hour surgery. Yazan is one of 1,000 children treated by Novick's group since it first came to Libya after the 2011 uprising.

In the operating room, Novick and his team chatted calmly as they cut open Yazan's chest. They sewed together two large veins carrying blood from Yazan's head and connected them to his pulmonary artery. That sent oxygenated blood straight to his lungs.

Eventually, exhausted nurses wheeled Yazan out of the operating theater, his

tiny body covered in bandages and tubes, to tell his parents the news. They expected Yazan to recover well, and with a follow-up operation, live a normal life. Under the fluorescent light of the intensive care unit, Abudulfetah touched his baby's soft hair, murmuring words of prayer. Yazan's belly rose and fell with steady breath. His cheeks were even flushed a subtle pink.

As a young medical resident at the University of Alabama, Novick, now 66, witnessed the suffering of children with congenital heart disease and the staggering disparities in health services. He became determined to try to give chil-

dren with heart problems the care they need, no matter where they're born. While still a resident, Novick began recruiting experts to help him trek to places where treatable heart disease means death due to a shortage of specialists and other restrictions.

Over nearly three decades, Novick and his colleagues have made hundreds of trips to 32 countries including Ukraine, Nigeria, Iraq, Iran and Columbia.

Novick's Libya team in February consisted of 20 volunteers: cardiologists, surgeons, nurses and anesthesiologists. The Associated Press accompanied them as they performed 10 complex open-heart surgeries in the country's west. The group flies home from Tripoli next week after completing dozens more operations.

Political power in Libya today is divided between the two rival governments in the east and west of the country and a patchwork of armed groups and foreign countries that support either administration.

"We're on both sides of the conflict zone," said Novick. "And that is a specific goal of ours, to be apolitical and help the children."

Novick's group not only drops in a few times a year, but also trains Libyan doctors and nurses to build up the country's critical health care system.

"We're not going to be here forever and we shouldn't be here forever," he said. □

Associated Press

Palestinians: 15-year-old killed in clash with Israeli army

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — The Palestinian health ministry on Wednesday said Israeli troops shot and killed a 15-year-old boy during clashes near the West Bank city of Nablus.

The ministry says Mohammed Hamayel was shot in the head by a live bullet during confrontations with Israeli soldiers in the village of Beita and died in a hospital shortly after.

The Israeli military said it was responding to a "violent riot" of some 500 Palestinians, many of whom hurled rocks at Israeli troops and set fires on fire. It said it was reviewing the incident.

Palestinians said they were protesting at the site in response to what they called an Israeli plan to confiscate land for nearby settlements. Pal-

estinian witnesses said the Israeli military arrived to disperse the protest, and the protesters began hurling stones at the soldiers. The witnesses said the Israeli forces responded with tear gas and rubber-coated bullets.

The health ministry, however, said the deceased was struck by a live bullet.

Clashes often erupt in the Israeli-occupied West Bank between Palestinian protesters and the Israeli military, which typically uses non-lethal means to disperse the crowds.

Israel captured in the West Bank in the 1967 Mideast war along with east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, territories the Palestinians want for their future state.

The Israeli settlement watchdog group Peace

Now said late last month that Israel is moving forward on plans to build more than 1,700 homes for settlers in the West Bank.

The approvals came weeks after the Trump administration unveiled its long-anticipated Mideast plan, which sides with Israel on many of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict's main points of contention. It envisions Israel annexing parts of the West Bank, including its 120 settlements and the 500,000 settlers who live there. It falls short of granting the Palestinians a state, offering them limited autonomy over disjointed chunks of land but only if they meet a set of stringent demands that would require them to drastically alter what has been their baseline for negotiations for decades. □

Chileans worry unresolved problems may lead to new protests

By EVA VERGARA

Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) —

The southern hemisphere summer has come to a close, and Chileans say they fear — or welcome — the prospect that the turn of the season could herald a renewal of the vast protests that shook the nation late last year over the government's failure to channel one of Latin America's best economies into well-being for the working and middle classes.

After the protests, which drew as many as 1.2 million people into the streets, the government promised reforms, the massive demonstrations grew smaller and the country went on summer vacation.

The government increased some social benefits, and set a nationwide vote for next month on whether to write a new constitution. But Chileans returning to work and school as vacation ended told The Associated Press they felt that none of the fundamental causes of the country's eruption had been resolved.

Some said they believed conditions were ripe for a possible new explosion of unrest at any time.



In this March 6, 2020 photo, anti-government protesters walk past a mural denouncing Chile's President Sebastian Pinera in Santiago, Chile.

Small protests by violent groups of masked youths continued regularly even during summer vacation and led to regular vandalism of businesses and clashes with police. After several thousand people demonstrated peacefully early this month, a small group clashed with security forces and incinerated a police vehicle with a firebomb.

By far the biggest — and largely peaceful — recent demonstration came Sun-

day when some 800,000 people, by government count, turned out for International Women's Day.

Some of those interviewed in recent days by The Associated Press said that for the first time in months, they were thinking of returning to the streets. Others said they worried that that protests and attacks on shops and infrastructure by the masked demonstrators could swell and grow out of control.

Juan Carlos González, 42, said he receives slightly more than the minimum wage of \$367 a month from the factory where he works as an electrical technician. To make ends meet, he said, he works as an Uber driver at night and on weekends.

"I'm angry at what's happened," González said. "With the resources this country has, these problems should have been solved many years ago. I

went out to march and if I have to do it again, I will." From afar, Chile has been a regional success story — under democratically elected presidents on the left and right, a free-market consensus has driven growth up, poverty down and won Chile the region's highest score on the United Nations Human Development Index, a blend of life expectancy, education and national income per capita. In 2010, Chile became the second Latin member of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, after Mexico.

But a 2017 UN report found that the richest 1% of the population earns 33 percent of the nation's wealth. That helps make Chile the most unequal country in the OECD, slightly worse than Mexico.

After the protests that began last October with the burning of metro stations and hundreds of businesses, President Sebastián Piñera responded with a basket of relatively small-scale reforms like raising retirees' pensions from \$134 to \$201 a month, freezing domestic electrical rates and raising a tax on the wealthy. □

Mexico City subway trains collide, killing 1, injuring 41

By PETER ORSI

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) —

A two-train subway collision in Mexico City killed a male passenger, injured 41 people and disrupted service Wednesday on the bustling metro system serving this megalopolis of over 20 million people.

Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum said via Twitter that one of the trains apparently reversed into the other by accident the previous night, shortly before midnight.

Twenty-five of the injured were treated at the scene, and the other 16 were taken to hospitals, Sheinbaum said.

All the injuries were "light to medium" and not life-threatening. Hours later, Mexico City prosecutor Rosa Icela Rodríguez said

that only four of the 16 remained in hospitals. She said the cause of the crash was under investigation.

Metro authorities said the two drivers of the trains were among those hurt.

Mexico City Metro director Florencia Serranía said at a news conference that the "black boxes" from both trains, which will provide a "second-by-second" record of what happened, were turned over to the city prosecutor's office and their information appeared to be intact.

Workers had separated the stacked metro cars and were working to clear the track.

She said she expected the line to be ready for service Thursday morning.

Serranía said the accident occurred 20 minutes before

the end of service Tuesday night when one train that was headed to the garage reversed into another, parked train, which came to rest on top of the reversing train.

"That's because these trains don't have a system that allows, like modern trains, that when they collide the impact is absorbed by the cabins and security elements they have," Serranía said.

The system is run by a program that's monitored from a control center. Drivers have to perform some actions, but cannot act alone, she said. "If a driver does not receive a direct order, he can't act on his own," she said.

She added that an international expert had been hired to conduct an inde-

pendent review of the incident.

Images of the accident published in local media showed wrecked subway cars derailed in the Tacubaya underground station, and rescuers carrying people away.

The Mexico City Metro system, one of the world's largest and most transited, has seen at least two serious accidents since it opened five decades ago.

In 2015 a train failed to brake in time and smashed into another at the Oceania station in the city's north, injuring 12 people. Authorities later blamed "double human error."

In the most serious incident, two trains collided at the Viaducto station in 1975, killing at least 31 and injuring more than 70, accord-

ing to the national newspaper El Universal.

Tacubaya is a key station for the Metro system, with three of its 11 lines intersecting there, and there were disruptions during the Wednesday morning commute.

Metro authorities said service on Line 1 would be reduced throughout the day with Tacubaya and a neighboring station out of action and 45 buses deployed to bridge the gap of about 2.5 miles (4 kilometers).

Serranía told Milenio television that about five cars on each train were damaged. Mexico City's Metro system transported more than 1.6 billion passengers in 2018, according to official figures, or about 4.4 million per day. □

LOCAL

Heart-Centered Leadership Foundation launches its youth wing HC Youth Leaders

SAN NICOLAS —Heart-Centered Leadership Foundation launched its youth club HC Youth Leaders at the end of 2019. HC Youth Leaders was officially launched with the installation of its first board and youth members.

Heart-Centered Leadership Foundation launched in 2008 with the mission of inspiring and empowering the youth of Aruba to unleash their full potential. The youth club's purpose is to be a sounding board for the foundation when it comes to youth-related topics, while also directly working on the foundation's mission. HC Youth Leaders' activities focus on the principle of being 'for the youth by the youth'. The 3 main activities are HC Bon (HC Good), which promotes volunteer work; HC Consciente (HC Awareness) which centers on activities that raise awareness on different topics; HC Hunto (HC Together) which are moments where the club comes together and brainstorms on projects they want to implement in their community. The HC in the activity titles is a reference to the HC Youth Leader name, but is also a play on the Papiamentu word 'hasi' which means 'to do'.

The first board of HC Youth Leaders consists of five members: President of the board Haddasah Lamarre, Secretary Xaui Thijsen, Treasurer Nathan Tromp, and members of the board Keilah Geerman and Uchenna Eugene. These five young people have been volunteers with Heart-Centered Leadership Foundation for years, where they started off as participants in seminars the foundation offers and then continued on as volunteers assisting in different trainings, workshops, seminars and activities for the youth organized by the foundation. HC Youth Leaders currently has 10 members between the ages of 15 – 20. Since the youth club's launch, HC Youth Leaders have been actively busy with monthly general meetings, deliberating and planning their calendar of activities for 2020. Furthermore, Members have received a workshop on what is a 'heart-centered leader', where they learned more about different leadership styles and the importance of being a heart-centered leader in our community. This past weekend, in commemoration of International Women's Day, the members realized their first HC Consciente activity when they handed out hand-made cards with positive messages in the Paseo Herencia area to empower and inspire women on their day.

Follow HC Youth Leaders on their Facebook page Heart-Centered Youth Leaders and on their Instagram hcyouth-leaders.aruba to keep up with all that the club is doing for the Aruban community. □





EPICUREAN NIGHT

Join us at L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House and sink your teeth into a family-style four-course dinner and wine tasting featuring succulent cuts of beef and tastes from across the globe. Rated the #1 steakhouse in Aruba by TripAdvisor, you can savor a world of delicious flavors as well as the unique atmosphere of this modern bistro, all for \$100* per person.



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*Price does not include 15% service charge.

Honor to our repeated guests

Aruba is thankful for so many repeated guests and to appreciate their contribution to our island we honor them in our newspaper and on our social media. Have a look at our website's Visitors Gallery where you can find a collection of all our ambassadors. Don't forget to check out our Facebook where we celebrate their

achievements as well.

Today we can fill a complete page with these wonderful people who choose to spend their vacation for many, many years yet on our One Happy Island.

Thank you all for being such a loyal visitors and enjoy your vacation.



Vincent and Joan Buzzetta from Florida were recently honored as Goodwill Ambassadors. The lovely couple have been coming to Aruba for their 34th consecutive visit.

The Buzzetta's love coming back to Aruba for the beautiful beaches, friends that visit same time every year and the wonderful people of Aruba.

Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority conducted the ceremony which was held at La Cabana Resort.

The Buzzetta's received the honorary title and some presents from Heyliger and she also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □



Another special couple have been honored as Emerald Ambassadors. They have been coming to Aruba for over 40 years consecutively. They are **Ludwik & Teresa Kowalczyk** from Summit New Jersey. They are honorary guests at Aruba Beach Club, which has been their favorite vacation destination for so many years.

This lovely couple have any reasons why they keep coming to Aruba, especially the food, the warmth and friendliness of its people and the many people they have met throughout the years that have become more like family. The Emerald Ambassador is the highest certificate that we present, and is given to visitors who have been visiting Aruba 35 years or more consecutively. **Mr. & Mrs. Kowalczyk** have been visiting Aruba for 40 years consecutively! The ceremony was one of importance because honoring visitors who have been coming to Aruba for over 35 years is incredibly rare and it was a very memorable moment for all of us.

Richardson and the representatives of the Aruba Beach Club were honored to be part of this memorable and special occasion. They hope to have Ludwik & Teresa as special guests for many years to come. □



Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority together with the representatives of the Marriott Surf Club had the great pleasure to honor loyal and friendly visitors who have been coming to Aruba for so many years consecutively.

The honorees were **Christopher & Claudette Bean** who have been honored as **Distinguished Visitors of Aruba**. They have been visiting Aruba for 14 years consecutively.

Also honored were **Michelangelo & Raffaelina Voira**, who received the honorary certificate of **Goodwill Ambassadors**. They have been visiting

Aruba for 20 years consecutively.

These lovely people stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, its safety, and Aruba's warm and friendly people who have become like family to them.

The honorary visitors were presented with their certificates and also received some presents on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation. Richardson also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □



Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba. The symbolic honorary Emerald Ambassador certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 35 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were **Charles & Alice Gatecliff** from Brighton Michigan.

The Gatecliff's have been visiting Aruba for 35 years consecutively. The Emerald Ambassador certificate is the highest certificate that we present, and is given to visitors who have been visiting Aruba 35 years or more consecutively. The ceremony was one of importance to us because honoring visi-

tors who have been coming to Aruba for over 35 years is incredibly rare and it was a very memorable moment for all of us.

The Gatecliff's stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, its safety and Aruba's warm and friendly people who have become like family to them. They also brought their family to the island many times before.

Richardson together with the representatives of the Costa Linda Beach Resort presented the certificate to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □

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Coming Soon: The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood and Shalom Hair & Nail Bar

Bohemian Restaurant: Tonight live Violinist Angela



PALM BEACH — Avant-garde from France, non-conformist in style and ethnic in cuisine. That is what the new kid in town is about. Bohemian Restaurant is different, unconventional and a rebel with a cause. The cause is to make you feel like in this hidden garden with outstanding dishes that connect you to the European liaisons of Aruba. **TONIGHT** has an extra magic: the live Violinist Angela performs! From traditional French and Italian famous melodies to more upbeat

pop and rock and roll. A taste for everyone.

A garden full of strong trees and dressed up in New York-style industrial-look elements creates a cosmopolitan vibe while at the same time the tropical breeze and outside dining connect to the Caribbean. Waiters with French barrettes and pant suspenders service you with a happy and loose style with on the background the sounds of underground chill music varied with French classics.

ONLY French owned Restaurant

The French are famous for their culinary art. Bohemian is the ONLY French owned restaurant on Aruba and offers you Grande gastronomy in a hip decor. French classics like Coq-au-Vin, Beef tartare, Escargot, Duck Foie Gras Terrine, Bouillabaisse Fish Soup, Tuna-Tartare, Quinoa-Salad, Rib-Eye Butter Maître-D, Crème Brulee, Chocolate Lava Cake and Pineapple Carpaccio are on the menu. Mediterranean inspired dishes like Ras el Hanout Fish Kebbab, Honey and Rosemary Lamb



Shank, Moroccan Lamb sausages, Mediterranean Sea Bass and Grilled Local Catch are other finger licking options. Directly imported wines from wineries in

Europe make up for a perfect pairing. You are welcome to enjoy the Happy Hours and Daily Early Birds from 5 to 7 PM. Bon appetite!

Free Parking available at the parking lot in front of Barcelo Resort.

Make your reservations through their website: <https://bohemianaruba.com>. Call them at 00 297 280 8448. Facebook: Bohemian. □



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Where: The University of Aruba's Open House
When: Thursday, March 26th from 6:00-9:15 P.M.
Who: YOU!

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Aruba to Me



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Last but not least: check out our website and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today's newspaper we received a great picture from **Debra Goff**. She wrote

Aruba to me..... A circle of friends in a circular rainbow! ☐

SPORTS



Coronavirus nixes fans from March Madness, some NHL, NBA games

By **JIMMY GOLEN**
AP Sports Writer

College basketball's March Madness became the highest-profile sporting event to forego fans during the coronavirus pandemic, joining some NBA and NHL teams that have decided to play in largely empty arenas in an effort to slow the disease's spread.

NCAA President Mark Emmert said Wednesday only essential staff and limited family will be allowed to attend the tournaments, draining the signature school spirit from one of the biggest events on the sports calendar.

The NBA game between the Warriors and Nets in San Francisco on Thursday night will also be played without fans, as will upcoming NHL games scheduled for Columbus, Ohio, and San Jose, California.

A person with direct knowledge of the talks said the majority of NBA owners are leaning toward a proposal to temporarily play games without fans in the buildings in response to the global concerns. NBA owners met via teleconference Wednesday and have more talks scheduled Thursday with the intention of finalizing plans so an announcement can be made by the league, according to the person who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because no details had been made public.

Conference tournament games for the Big Ten and Big 12 will also be without fans starting Thursday.

Continued on Page 18

STAAL TACTIC

Hurricanes score 3 in 3rd period, beat Red Wings 5-2

Detroit Red Wings left wing Darren Helm (43) and Carolina Hurricanes center Jordan Staal (11) become entangled behind the net during the third period of an NHL hockey game Tuesday, March 10, 2020, in Detroit.

Associated Press
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Coca-Cola on U.S. Soccer: 'unacceptable and offensive'

By **ANNE M. PETERSON**
AP Sports Writer

Coca-Cola criticized the U.S. Soccer Federation for saying in legal papers that women did not have the same responsibilities or physical ability as men on its national teams.

The Coca-Cola Co. called the statements by the federation in the defense of a gender discrimination suit "unacceptable and offensive."

"We have asked to meet with them immediately to express our concerns.

The Coca-Cola Co. is firm in its commitment to gender equality, fairness and women's empowerment in the United States and around the world and we expect the same from our partners," Coca-Cola said in a statement, first reported by The Wall Street Journal on Wednesday.

Coca-Cola has been a long-term partner with the USSF as well as a global sponsor of the World Cup since 1974.

In court documents filed Monday in response to the players' motion for a summary judgment, the USSF said the women claimed their ability level is the same as the men "by ignoring the materially higher level of speed and strength required to perform the job of an MNT player."



USA players celebrate after a Carli Lloyd goal during the She Believes Cup women's soccer game of USA vs. England at Exploria Stadium in Orlando on Thursday, March 5, 2020.

Associated Press

"A reasonable juror could conclude that the job of MNT player requires materially different skill and more responsibility than plaintiffs' job does, while also taking place under materially different working conditions," USSF lawyers wrote.

"The job of MNT player (competing against senior men's national teams) requires a higher level of skill based on speed and strength than does the job of WNT player (competing against senior women's national teams)."

Molly Levinson, spokes-

woman for the players in the lawsuit, said "this 'argument' belongs in the Paleolithic Era."

"It sounds as if it has been made by a caveman," she said in a statement. "Literally everyone in the world understands that an argument that male players 'have more responsibility' is just plain simple sexism and illustrates the very gender discrimination that caused us to file this lawsuit to begin with."

The USSF did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Coca-Co-

la's statement.

Players filed the gender discrimination lawsuit in federal court in Los Angeles last year, claiming they are paid less than their counterparts on the men's national team.

The women are seeking more than \$66 million in damages under the Equal Pay Act and the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and a trial is scheduled for May 5.

Both sides have moved for summary judgments, asking U.S. District Judge R. Gary Klausner to decide in their favor without a trial.

The USSF says disparities in pay between the men and women are the result of separate collective bargaining agreements with different terms.

The women's team receives salaries and benefits the men don't.

In addition, the USSF cites FIFA's World Cup prize money — \$38 million awarded to the French Football Federation for the men's title in 2018 and \$4 million to the USSF for last year's women's title. The USSF claims it bases bonuses for the women in the tournament on the prize money the federation receives.

Procter & Gamble, which supports the USSF through its Secret deodorant brand, last year donated \$529,000 to help close the gender pay gap: \$23,000 for each of the 23 players on the U.S. World Cup roster.

Secret took out a full page ad in The New York Times that said:

"We urge the US Soccer Federation to be a beacon of strength and end gender pay inequality once and for all."

LUNA Bar said last year it was awarding each of the 23 women on the U.S. roster \$31,250, the amount it said was how much more players on the men's team earn for making a World Cup roster. □

Coronavirus

Continued from Page 17

The list is expected to grow.

Also Wednesday, the Mariners said they will move all of their home games in March out of Seattle, the U.S. city hardest-hit by the outbreak; the team and Major League Baseball have not decided whether the games will be played at the opponent's ballpark or a neutral site.

And the Italian soccer club Juventus said defender Daniele Rugani has COVID-19 — the first player in the country's top division to test positive. The team said Rugani and "those who have had con-

tact with him" have been isolated.

The pinnacle of the college basketball season, the NCAA Tournament is a month-long festival of pep bands and face-painting and a cash cow that, along with football, helps fund non-revenue sports at schools throughout the country. The decision to play in fanless arenas will cost millions in ticket sales but preserve billions in TV rights fees.

The 68-team men's tournament is scheduled to begin Tuesday in Dayton, Ohio, where Gov. Mike DeWine has announced plans to ban "mass gatherings" to combat the spread of



In this March 18, 2015, file photo, the NCAA logo is displayed at center court as work continues at The Consol Energy Center in Pittsburgh, for the NCAA college basketball tournament.

Associated Press

COVID-19, which was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization on Wednesday.

"You dream of this situation where you're playing for

the highest stakes on the biggest stage, and it's hard to imagine that if nobody is around to see it," said Bill Self, the coach of the top-ranked Kansas Jayhawks.

"But I told the guys: 'Why did we all start loving this game and playing it? Did we do it because we need people to watch us, or did we do it because we loved it?'"

"It will have a different feel but it will still be highly competitive, and the kids will still play like there's no tomorrow," he said. "They'll make the most of it. We'll make the most of it."

Elsewhere, the Ivy League canceled all spring sports, as many American schools told students not to return from spring break and prepare for classes to be taught online. The conference had already canceled its men's and women's basketball tournaments. □

At 27, Bogaerts becomes leader for revamped Red Sox

By MAUREEN MULLEN

Associated Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP) —

He's been a fixture for so long in the Boston Red Sox lineup that it seems hard to believe Xander Bogaerts is only 27. "I know, time goes by so quick," he said.

Signed as a 16-year-old in Aruba, a two-time World Series champion and now with a contract that could take him through the 2026 season. Over time, the All-Star shortstop has become the second-longest tenured player in the Red Sox clubhouse. With Dustin Pedroia out of camp as he deals with a setback in his rehab from a knee injury and contemplates his career, only center fielder Jackie Bradley Jr. -- called up earlier than Bogaerts in 2013 -- has been with the Red Sox longer.

"Because of the confidence and probably because of the success that leads to the confidence, he's starting to be a leader in that clubhouse," manager Ron Roenicke said. "And he certainly is with the Latin players. He's been a big influence on them. But I think he is on everybody. His attitude, the way he walks in everyday, for me, makes a big difference." "When you talk to him he's always in a good mood, he's always smiling, and he works. And that's important for us as a staff to not always have to be the ones that try to talk to guys and pump them up and get them, whether it's working hard or working the right way. If their peers do it, it's huge," he said. Bogaerts finished fifth in the AL MVP voting last season and made his second All-Star team. He hit .309 with 33 homers, 117 RBIs and 52 doubles, and set career highs in on-base (.384) and slugging (.555) percentages. "I don't want to be someone else or put up numbers like someone else. I think that's when the pressure comes," he said. "I just know how I play the game and what I'm capable of and just continue to strive to become great and I think that's always a motivation factor and try-

ing to be the best and people recognize that."

With 2018 AL MVP Mookie Betts traded to the Los Angeles Dodgers, Bogaerts' bat is a key to Boston's production. "When I talk about a deep lineup, he helps push that lineup back to where it's tough to get through all nine," Roenicke said. "Whether I put him at third or fourth or I know he likes fifth also, that's a tough five guys to get through."

"So, what he did last year, I know in '17 he had a big year offensively, '18 good again, last year big. He's becoming a real consistent offensive threat, not just in homers but in average, driving in runs, and that allows us to put him pretty much anywhere in the lineup," he said. □



Boston Red Sox's Xander Bogaerts stretches before a spring training baseball game against the Detroit Tigers, Wednesday, March 4, 2020, in Fort Myers, Fla.

Associated Press

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Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: Hook and Cook your Own Fish!



Oranjestad- Renaissance Marina Downtown is home to the Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood. Herby senior and Herby Junior both share a passion and love for fishing. They know what the local waters have to offer and what fresh fish really means. Over 30 years ago, the idea for the fishing charter was born.

Captain Herby would catch the fish to be served at the restaurant the same day. That concept still lives, what is 'hooked' during the day is cooked in the evening at the restaurant. Herby shares his experience with his crew, who take out guests daily on their tournament rigged 35ft twin engine

Bertram "Driftwood" or on their more spacious 37ft twin engine Bertram called "Living Easy". Both yachts are available for charters from 8am to 12 noon, or from 1 to 5pm (6-hour trips also available). To book a fishing charter visit www.driftwoodfishingcharters.com or call Herbert direct at (297)-5924040.



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For reservations visit www.driftwoodaruba.com or call (297)-5832515

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Tiger Woods elected to the World Golf Hall of Fame

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla.

(AP) — Already among the greatest on the golf course, Tiger Woods will join them in the World Golf Hall of Fame.

Woods was elected Wednesday to be part of the 2021 induction class, a decision with as much suspense as a tap-in. Woods shares the PGA Tour record with 82 career victories, and his 15 majors are second only to Jack Nicklaus. He has 11 other victories in tours around the world, including Europe, Japan, Asia and Australia.

PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan called Woods with the news. He is not at The Players Championship this week because Woods says his back was not quite ready.

"I am both honored and humbled to be inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame," Woods said in a statement. "This past year



Tiger Woods tees off on the ninth hole during the third round of the Genesis Invitational golf tournament at Riviera Country Club, Saturday, Feb. 15, 2020, in the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles.

has been such an incredible journey and the support I've received from my family, friends and fans has been overwhelming. This achievement is the ultimate recognition to never give up and keep chasing." Woods was a lock before he returned from reconstructive knee surgery after winning the 2008 U.S. Open for his 14th major, and be-

fore he returned from a fourth back surgery to win his 15th major last year at the Masters.

No other player has won at rate like the 44-year-old Woods.

The first to win the U.S. Amateur three straight times, Woods already had two victories in seven starts on tour. He set or tied 20 records at the Masters when

he won by 12 shots in 1997 at age 21. By the time he turned 30, he already had 46 victories on the PGA Tour and 10 majors.

He remains the only player to hold all four professional majors at the same time. Off the course, he was a catalyst for unprecedented growth, and he was largely responsible for television network deals that set prize money soaring.

"Tiger has done more for the game of golf than anyone ever thought possible, and his historic feats on the course are only one aspect of his impact," Monahan said. "His imprint on the game is immeasurable, and his unparalleled legacy is one we look forward to celebrating."

The Hall of Fame selection process was changed last year to lower the age to 45 during the induction year. It had been 50, and it was 40 when the World Golf Hall of Fame began in 1998 in St. Augustine. Among his

peers, Phil Mickelson, Ernie Els and Vijay Singh already are in the Hall of Fame.

A subcommittee of media, Hall of Fame members and golf administrators whittled the ballot to 10 finalists — four male players, four female players and two contributors. The 20-member selection committee — nine from the media, seven administrators and four Hall of Fame members — voted Wednesday, with 75% required for election.

The induction class has a maximum of four members, with others to be announced later. Still to be determined is the date and location for induction.

Other finalists were Johnny Farrell, Padraig Harrington and Tom Weiskopf from the male competitor category; Susie Maxwell Berning, Beverly Hanson, Sandra Palmer and Dottie Pepper from the female competitor category; and Tim Finchem and Marion Hollins from the contributor category. □

Celtics hold off Pacers, clinch 6th straight playoff spot

By The Associated Press

Marcus Smart's leaning bank shot in the final minute gave the Celtics' the lead after the team blew a 19-point advantage, and Boston held on for a 114-111 victory Tuesday night over the Indiana Pacers to clinch a playoff spot for a sixth consecutive year.

Jayson Tatum scored 30 points for Boston while Gordon Hayward added 27 points, 10 boards and five assists in his home state.

Smart put the Celtics ahead for good at 111-109 with 49.7 seconds left by scoring in the lane over Domantas Sabonis, who led Indiana with 28 points, nine rebounds and eight assists. Smart made two free throws with seven seconds to go for a three-point edge, and Justin Holiday missed badly on a contested 3-pointer as time expired.

Victor Oladipo finished with a season-high 27 points to power a stunning comeback for the Pacers, who fell into an 85-66 hole late in the third quarter.

NETS 104, LAKERS 102

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Spencer Dinwiddie scored 23 points and hit the tiebreaking jumper with 28.3 seconds to play, and the Nets beat the Lakers for their second straight win since interim coach Jacque Vaughn took over.

Anthony Davis missed a wide-open 3-pointer at the buzzer that would have won it for the Lakers, whose four-game winning streak ended after an emotionally charged weekend. Los Angeles lost to a sub-.500 opponent in its first game after back-to-back victories over NBA-leading Milwaukee and the powerhouse Clippers.

Caris LeVert added 22 points as Brooklyn opened its four-game California road trip by knocking off the powerhouse Lakers, who lost for only the second time in 13 games. Vaughn's Nets unbeaten since he surprisingly replaced Kenny Atkinson last week.

LeBron James had 29 points, 12 rebounds and nine assists for the Lakers.

ROCKETS 117, TIMBER-



Indiana Pacers guard Victor Oladipo (4) tries to go around the defense of Boston Celtics defenders Daniel Theis (27) and Marcus Smart (36) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Indianapolis, Tuesday, March 10, 2020.

WOLVES 111

HOUSTON (AP) — James Harden scored 37 points and Houston beat Minnesota, snapping a four-game skid.

The Rockets' losing streak, which matched a season high, came after they won six in a row and dropped them to sixth in the Western Conference with the playoffs fast approaching.

Russell Westbrook scored 27 points for Houston.

D'Angelo Russell had 28 points to lead the Timberwolves, who lost their third straight.

SPURS 119, MAVERICKS 109

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — LaMarcus Aldridge had 24 points in his return from injury and San Antonio withstood Luka Doncic's 38 points to beat Dallas and keep its playoff hopes afloat.

San Antonio had seven players in double figures in snapping a two-game skid.

Rudy Gay scored 17 points, Trey Lyles had 14 points and 11 rebounds and DeMar DeRozan added 13 points and 12 assists.

Dallas remains seventh in the West, 6 1/2 games ahead of Memphis.

The Spurs moved four games behind the Grizzlies for the eighth seed in their bid to earn an NBA-record 23rd straight playoff appearance.

MAGIC 120, GRIZZLIES 115

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Terrence Ross scored 24 points, fueling a rally with 18 in the fourth quarter, and Orlando beat Memphis.

Michael Carter-Williams added 20 points and Nikola Vucevic finished with 19 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists for the Magic. Jonas Valanciunas led Memphis with 27 points and 16 rebounds, while Dillon Brooks and rookie Ja Morant finished with 21 points

each. The game, featuring two teams holding down the eighth and final spot in their respective conferences, was competitive until the final minute. A 3-point attempt by Memphis guard Tyus Jones bounced off the rim in the final seconds, preserving the Magic's third straight victory.

TRAIL BLAZERS 121, SUNS 105

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Damian Lillard scored 25 points and Portland beat Phoenix.

The win snapped a two-game skid for the Blazers, who are among several teams vying to pull in front of Memphis for the eighth playoff spot in the West. Trevor Ariza and CJ McCollum had 22 points apiece and Hassan Whiteside added 16 points and 14 rebounds for Portland.

Devin Booker scored 29 points for the Suns.

CLIPPERS 131, WARRIORS 107

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Kawhi Leonard scored 23 points before sitting out the entire fourth quarter along with the rest of the Doc Rivers' starters, Los Angeles thumped Golden State.

Paul George and Patrick Beverley scored 15 points apiece as the Clippers had seven players in double figures. Reggie Jackson added 16 points and JaMychal Green had 13 points and 10 rebounds.

The Clippers moved a game ahead of Denver for second place in the West. Dragan Bender matched his career-high of 23 points for Golden State. Andrew Wiggins scored 21 and Marquese Chriss had 10 points and 10 rebounds.

WIZARDS 122, KNICKS 115

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bradley Beal got back to his high-scoring ways with 40 points, lifting Washington past New York.

Beal overcame a slow start and surpassed the 25-point plateau for the 22nd time in 23 games.

His string of 21 such games was snapped Sunday when he scored 23 in a loss to Miami.

The Wizards' win meant the Heat will have to wait at least one more day to clinch an Eastern Conference playoff spot.

Shabazz Napier added 21 points for the Wizards. Bobby Portis and Frank Ntilikina led the Knicks with 20 points apiece.

BULLS 108, CAVALIERS 103

CHICAGO (AP) — Coby White scored 20 points to help offset a career-high nine turnovers in his first NBA start, and Chicago beat Cleveland.

Wendell Carter Jr. added 17 points. Lauri Markkanen, Denzel Valentine and Otto Porter Jr. each scored 15. Shaquille Harrison grabbed 10 rebounds. And the Bulls held off the Eastern Conference's last-place team to win for just the third time in 16 games.

Collin Sexton led Cleveland with 26 points, giving him 25 or more in seven of the past eight games. Andre Drummond scored 21. □

Boston beats Philadelphia 2-0, ends Flyers 9-game win streak

By The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) —

Matt Grzelcyk and Patrice Bergeron scored, Tuukka Rask stopped 36 shots and the Boston Bruins beat Philadelphia 2-0 on Tuesday night to snap the Flyers' nine-game winning streak. The Bruins (44-14-12) became the first team with 100 points this season and Rask picked up his 50th career shutout. Rask became the sixth active goalie with at least 50 shutouts. He has five this season.

Rask stymied a Flyers' offense that had scored at least three goals in each of their nine wins during the streak. They scored five goals four times since the streak started Feb. 18 against Columbus.

The Flyers had been sensational as they shot up the standings and were fighting with Washington for first place in the Metropolitan Division. The Flyers had defeated the Bruins in a shootout in both games of the series this season, including a bizarre ending in January when Boston's Brad Marchand overskated the puck at center ice on a shootout attempt.

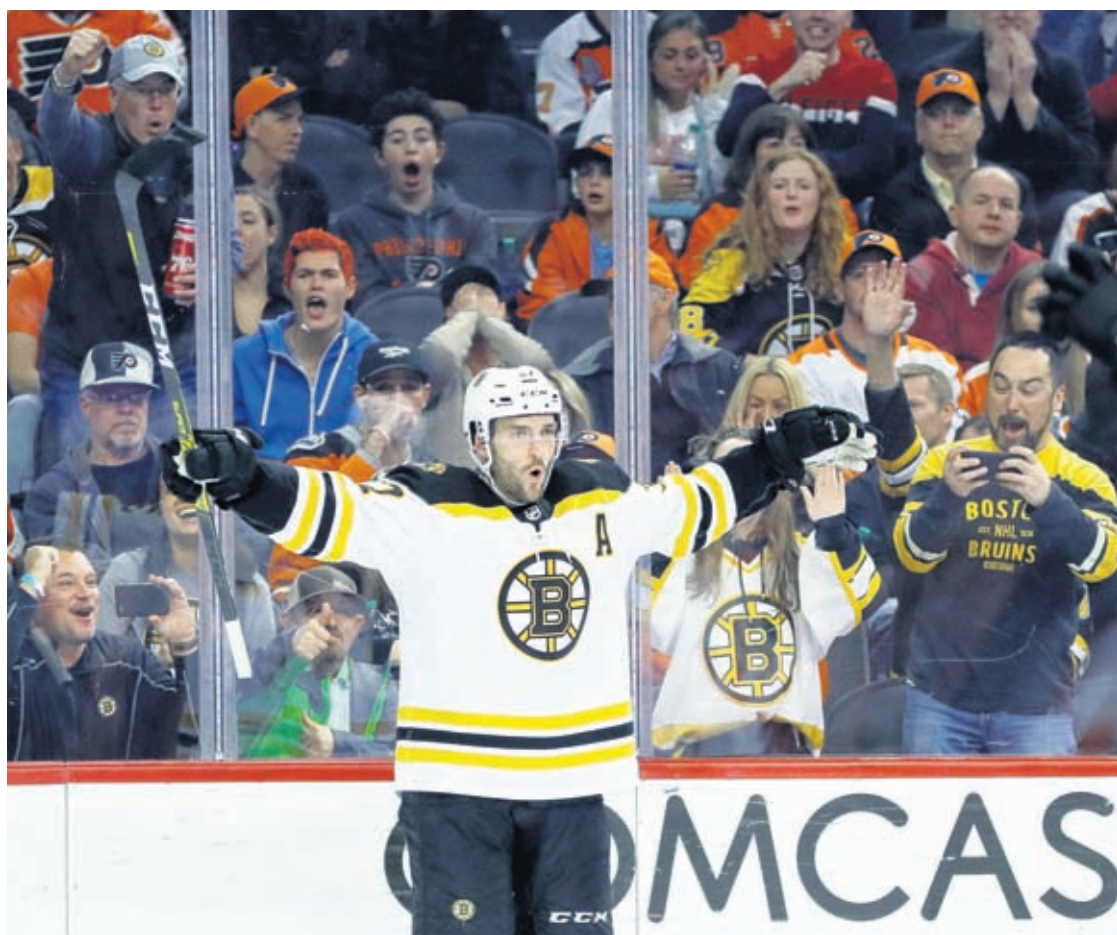
The frivolity didn't last for long, and the Flyers pounded Rask, taking 24 shots over the first two periods. Rask stood tall in net, stopping 36 total shots, and got the cushion he needed late when Bergeron's shot from the circle appeared to get deflected by a Flyers stick and went in for a 2-0 lead.

The Flyers' Carter Hart finished with 27 saves.

DUCKS 5, SENATORS 2

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Nicolas Deslauriers scored the fastest hat trick in Anaheim history, Ryan Miller made 40 saves and the Ducks rolled past Ottawa.

Deslauriers completed a natural hat trick 11:49 into the game with a wrist shot from the left circle that went off Ottawa goaltender Marcus Hogberg's glove and shoulder to give the Ducks a 4-0 lead. It was his second goal in 32 seconds, after he scored on a one-timer from the slot. Deslauriers' first goal of the



Boston Bruins' Patrice Bergeron celebrates after scoring a goal during the third period of an NHL hockey game against the Philadelphia Flyers, Tuesday, March 10, 2020, in Philadelphia. Boston won 2-0.

night came at 2:45.

Jakob Silfverberg opened the scoring when he deflected Rickard Rakell's shot into the net on a power play.

It was Deslauriers' first hat trick in 375 NHL games. The left wing came into the game with four goals this season. Teemu Selanne held the previous Ducks mark for quickest hat trick at 12:58 in 1997.

Anaheim — which has earned a point in four straight games — was outshot 42-15 but scored on five of its first eight shots. Rakell had a goal and an assist, and Rowney and David Backes each had two assists.

Brady Tkachuk and Colin White had a goal and an assist for Ottawa, which had won four of five. Hogberg stopped 10 shots.

PENGUINS 5, DEVILS 2

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Evgeni Malkin scored two goals and set up another to lead slumping Pittsburgh over New Jersey.

Evan Rodrigues and defensemen Justin Schultz and Kris Letang also scored as the Penguins won for only the third time in 11 games. Matt Murray made 20 saves

to help Pittsburgh reach 40 wins for the seventh straight season and 13th time since 2006-07. The only exception was the 48-game lockout-shortened season in 2012-13.

Nikita Gusev and Miles Wood scored for New Jersey, which won its previous two games. Mackenzie Blackwood stopped 28 shots but the last-place Devils dropped to 6-3-2 in their last 11.

MAPLE LEAFS 2, LIGHTNING 1

TORONTO (AP) — Auston Matthews scored his 47th goal of the season and Frederik Andersen made 32 saves as Toronto beat Tampa Bay.

William Nylander also scored for Toronto. Mitch Marner and John Tavares each had two assists for the Leafs.

Ondrej Palat scored for Tampa Bay. Andrei Vasilevskiy made 34 stops.

PREDATORS 4, CANADIENS 2

MONTREAL (AP) — Filip Forsberg scored twice and Nashville withstood a late comeback try by Montreal. Ryan Johansen and Calle Jarnkrok also scored in the second period as Nashville

built a 4-goal lead.

Artturi Lehkonen and Lukas Vejdemo had goals in the third period for Montreal, which lost its third straight game.

Juuse Saros made 32 saves for the win. Carey Price stopped 32 shots for the Canadiens in his league-leading 58th game of the season.

The Bell Centre hosted a pregame ceremony memorializing Habs great Henri Richard, who passed away on Friday. The crowd gave a standing ovation to Richard's family, which was in attendance, followed by a moment of silence.

HURRICANES 5, RED WINGS 2

DETROIT (AP) — Justin Williams scored a tiebreaking goal 1:38 into the final period, and Sebastian Aho added two goals later in the third to give Carolina a win over Detroit.

Morgan Geekie and Nino Niederreiter also scored for Carolina, which extended its winning streak to three games.

Tyler Bertuzzi and Christoffer Ehn scored for the Red Wings, who had their modest two-game winning streak snapped.

RANGERS 4, STARS 2

DALLAS (AP) — Mika Zibanejad scored his 10th goal in five games to give him 40 for the season, impressive rookie Igor Shesterkin made 31 saves and the Rangers beat skidding Dallas.

Kaapo Kakko, another Rangers rookie, scored twice in the second period for his first goals in a month. Adam Fox also had a goal as New York built a 4-0 cushion and won for the 10th time in its last 11 road games.

Shesterkin improved to 10-2 in 12 NHL games, bouncing back from a disappointing home loss to last-place New Jersey on Saturday in his first game back from an upper-body injury sustained in a car accident.

Roope Hintz had a power-play goal and Andrew Cogliano also scored in the third period — the first goals in three games for a Dallas team that dropped to 0-4-2 in its past six. Miro Heiskanen assisted on both. Ben Bishop stopped 23 shots for the Stars.

CANUCKS 5, ISLANDERS 4, SO

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — J.T. Miller scored the only goal in the shootout and Vancouver beat the Islanders.

Miller scored on a wrist shot from the faceoff circle.

Tyler Toffoli had a goal and an assist for the Canucks, who won for the second time in seven games.

Adam Gaudette, Zack MacEwen and Bo Horvat also scored for Vancouver. Defenseman Alex Edler had two assists, giving him 401 NHL points.

Brock Nelson had a pair of goals for the Islanders, who are mired in a season-long seven-game winless streak (0-4-3). Andrew Ladd and Jordan Eberle also scored for New York. Derick Brassard had two assists.

After giving up an early lead, New York battled back to tie the game three times.

Canuck goaltender Thatcher Demko had a career-high 45 saves. New York goalie Semyon Varlamov stopped 30 shots. □

Ravens G Marshal Yanda retires after 13 years on his own terms

By DAVID GINSBURG

AP Sports Writer

OWINGS MILLS, Md. (AP)

— Much thinner and chattier than during his playing days, Marshal Yanda retired from the NFL on Wednesday with the satisfaction of knowing he walked away before being kicked out the door.

Yanda played his entire

13-year career with the Baltimore Ravens, who showed their appreciation for the eight-time Pro Bowl guard by sending him off with a framed No. 73 jersey and heartfelt thanks during a classy news conference. The ceremony began with a video tribute and was highlighted by a lengthy prepared speech



In this Aug. 1, 2016, file photo, Baltimore Ravens guard Marshal Yanda, right, talks with quarterback Joe Flacco during practice at the NFL football teams training camp in Baltimore.

Associated Press



In this May 4, 2002, file photo, jockey Victor Espinoza celebrates after riding War Emblem to victory in the 128th Kentucky Derby horse race at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Ky.

Associated Press

War Emblem, 2002 Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner, dies

GEORGETOWN, Ky. (AP) —

War Emblem, the 2002 Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner, died Wednesday at age 21.

He had been at Old Friends Thoroughbred Retirement Center since 2015 after returning from Japan. Officials said the cause of death was believed to be a paddock accident, but exact details weren't known. A necropsy was pending.

War Emblem was sold to Prince Ahmed bin Salman's Thoroughbred Corp. and transferred to trainer Bob Baffert after the colt won the Illinois Derby. Three weeks later, he won the Kentucky Derby and then the Preakness to set up a Triple Crown bid.

However, he stumbled badly at the start of the Belmont and ended up losing to 70-1 shot Sarava, who also lives at Old Friends.

War Emblem won the Haskell Invitational later that year. He retired with

seven wins in 13 career starts and earnings of \$3,491,000.

War Emblem was sold for \$17 million to Shadai Stallion Farm in Japan. He proved a difficult but talented stallion, having sired fewer than 200 foals in his career.

But many of them were talented runners, including Robe Tissage, Japan's champion 2-year-old filly. After retiring from stud duty, War Emblem was donated to Old Friends.

"I know we're supposed to appreciate all of our retirees the same, but he was one of the very special ones," Old Friends founder and president Michael Blowen said. "He was tough, narcissistic, bold, and handsome."

I proudly count among a very meager number of accomplishments the day he allowed me to put his halter on without biting me. He trusted me." □

from the guest of honor, a man known for keeping his sentences short and for his aversion to talking to the media.

"I played this game because I loved the game," Yanda said. "I love competing, I loved the teammates and the struggle and the grind. I loved that every single day. That's why I played."

So why walk away now, only a couple months removed from a season in which he was completely healthy, played in the Pro Bowl and was voted second-team All-Pro?

"I've watched guys as they got older lose a little bit more each year, and then by the end they were almost like a liability. In the back of mind I said I never wanted to be like that," said Yanda, 35, who was surrounded on the stage by executive vice president Ozzie Newsome, general manager Eric DeCosta and coach John Harbaugh.

"I wanted to be up here with these guys wanting me back, rather than being at the other end of it saying, 'We're happy you're retiring,'" Yanda said. "I wanted to end playing well."

Yanda played in 177 games, tied with Jonathan Ogden for most in franchise history among offensive linemen. After a 2017 season in which ankle and shoulder injuries limited his

playing time to two games, he began to think about what life might be after football.

"It was in my mind the last two years. And then (last) year, I felt that if I made it through healthy again, that no matter what happened that this was probably going to be it," Yanda said. He stuck with the plan even though Baltimore went 14-2 in 2019 and has the potential to go the distance next season.

"I never had as much fun as I had last year," Yanda said. "To be a part of that team was special, but being able to walk away from the game on my terms is so meaningful. I'm glad I can do it my way."

Yanda took some time to make sure that was the route he wanted to take, but there would be no change of heart. Almost immediately after Baltimore's season ended with a loss to Tennessee in the playoffs, he started a diet and upped his cardio training. The result was a 45-pound weight loss that left Yanda at 265 and looking more like a linebacker than a burly offensive lineman.

"I feel so much better already, just going up and down the stairs," he said.

After growing up on a farm in Iowa, Yanda played two seasons of junior college football and two seasons at the University of Iowa

before coming to Baltimore as a third-round draft pick in 2007. He helped the Ravens win a Super Bowl in 2012, has been assured a place in the team's Ring of Honor, and will probably end up joining Ogden and Newsome in the Hall of Fame.

"He was tough, competitive, smart and had a unique respect for the game as well as his teammates," Newsome said. "I know sometime in the future, as I've been told, you'll be getting your mail in Canton."

Harbaugh said of Yanda: "He embraced every bit of his career, made the most of it and is, in my opinion, a first-ballot Hall of Famer."

When everyone was done talking, Yanda exchanged greetings with several of his former teammates, including Joe Flacco, Justin Tucker, Nick Boyle and Chris Chester.

And now, DeCosta must fill a huge hole on the offensive line with absolutely no hope of finding a replacement who will immediately be just as good.

"You can't replace a guy like Marshal. As great a player as he is, he's a better person and a leader," DeCosta said. "You hope you hit on someone who at some point can become that guy, but that's like a once-in-every-10 year type of thing." □

Census Bureau site goes live as counting begins in earnest

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER**

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — The 2020 census is off and running for much of America now.

The U.S. Census Bureau made a soft launch of the 2020 census website on Monday, making its form available online. On Thursday, the Census Bureau will begin mailing out notices far and wide.

For the bureau, the once-a-decade head count is akin to running a sprint and marathon at the same time. It takes awhile, but there's plenty of action throughout.

"It is that intense ... counting up to 330 million people in a very diverse, very mobile population, and over 140 million housing units," Stephen Buckner, a senior Census Bureau executive, said during a recent visit to Miami.

The bureau had an official in-person launch in January in Toksook Bay, Alaska. Mail service is spotty and internet connectivity is unreliable in remote Alaska, making door-to-door canvassing the best way to gather responses.

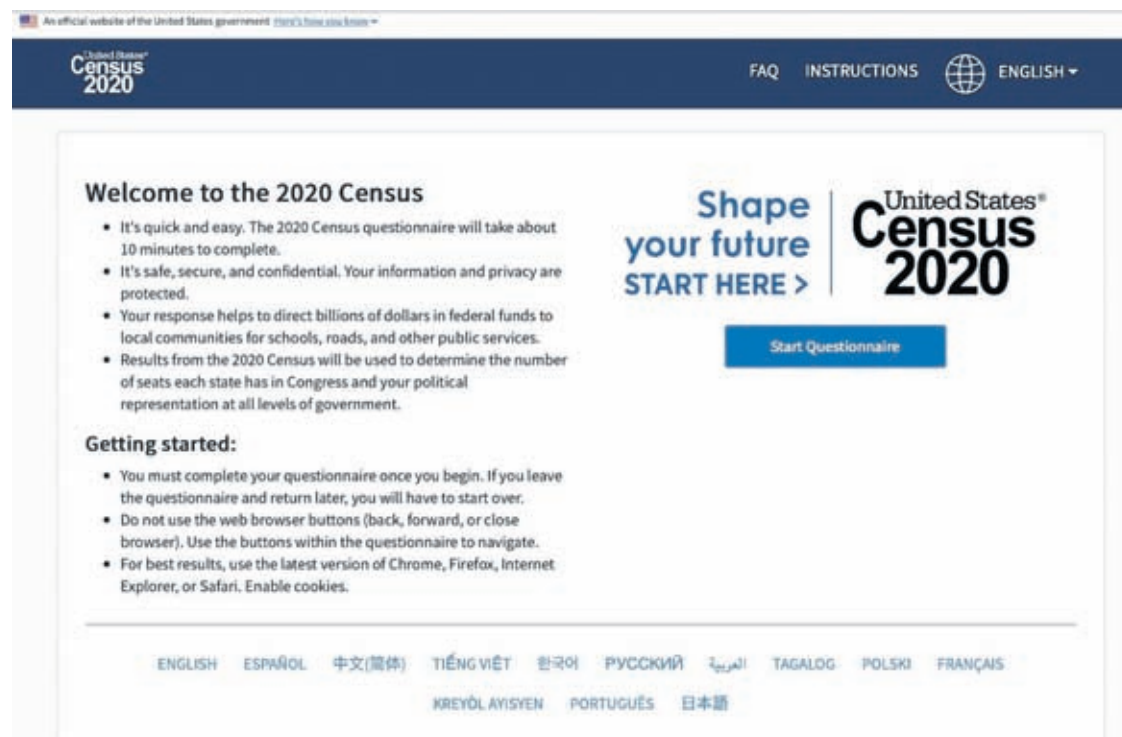
There has been a U.S. census every decade since 1790. The results determine how many congressional seats each state gets and how \$1.5 trillion in federal spending is distributed.

The 2020 census is the first in which most people are being encouraged to answer the questions online, though people can still answer the questionnaire by telephone or by mailing back a paper form if they prefer.

The notices mailed out starting this week will include a census ID that matches addresses. People filling out the form via the internet are encouraged to use the ID, but those who answer the questions online before getting their IDs still will be counted.

"The best user experience is provided with a Census ID," the bureau said in a statement Monday evening.

Some people couldn't wait. Amit Bagga jumped on the Census Bureau web-



This photo provided by the U.S. Census 2020, shows the homepage of the United States' Census 2020 website on Tuesday, March 10, 2020.

Associated Press

site from his desktop computer Monday after it went live and filled out the form in about two minutes, using his address instead of an ID number.

"It could not have been easier," said Bagga, who is deputy director of NYC Census 2020, the outreach initiative started by New York Mayor Bill de Blasio.

About 80% of households receiving mailings will get notices about how to answer the questions online, and about 20% of households automatically will receive a paper ballot if there are large numbers of seniors in their neighborhood or levels of internet connectivity are low.

Census workers won't begin going door-to-door in earnest until May, when they'll approach homes that haven't responded and ask the questions in person. Bureau officials are monitoring the spread of the novel coronavirus, which could disrupt the door-to-door phase. If there is a major disaster, such as an epidemic, census workers instead can drop off the questionnaires at homes, with the hope that people will respond on their own, according to the bureau's operational plan.

Testifying before a U.S. House appropriations subcommittee on Tuesday, U.S. Secretary Wilbur Ross,

whose department oversees the Census Bureau, said the emphasis on getting people to respond online is minimizing physical contact that could spread the virus.

"We will just have to play it by ear," Ross said. "We are ready to make responses and we will deal with the situation as it evolves."

This week also poses the first true test of the Census Bureau's new IT systems for capturing online responses.

For the past three years, the Government Accountability Office has placed the census on its list of high-risk programs, mainly because it is relying on technology that has not been used before. Last month, the bureau decided to use a backup data-collection system for handling the online responses after officials grew concerned that the primary system would not be able to handle excessive traffic.

The online approach to answering the 2020 census questions causes Democratic U.S. Rep. Karen Bass of California, to worry it will lead to an undercount of blacks and other minorities in hard-to-count communities.

"Having the census online can be a way of continuously undercounting the black population," Bass said last week.

Perhaps the most attention given the 2020 census over the past several years has been to the failed effort by the Trump administration to put a citizenship question on the form. The U.S. Supreme Court rejected those efforts, but some worry that lingering unease may scare off some Hispanics and immigrants from participating.

"It's a challenge every 10 years to get any American to fill out the census. ... Some people are fearful of giving the government more information," said U.S. Democratic Rep. Joaquin Castro of Texas. "But every 10 years, that challenge has been especially tough in minority communities, who sometimes are more disconnected from government than other communities." □

Twitter preps ephemeral tweets, starts testing in Brazil

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY**

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Twitter is starting to test tweets that disappear after 24 hours, although initially only in Brazil.

The company says the ephemeral tweets, which it calls "fleets" because of their fleeting nature, are designed to allay the concerns of new users who might be turned off by the public and permanent nature of normal tweets.

Fleets can't be retweeted and they won't have "likes." People can respond to them, but the replies show up as direct messages to the original tweeter, not as a public response, turning any back-and-forth into a private conversation instead of a public discussion.

Despite having high-profile users such as President Donald Trump, Twitter has lagged behind other tech powerhouses like Facebook and Google in terms of user growth and advertising revenue.

Twitter is hoping that by offering disappearing tweets, people will be more likely to share casual, everyday thoughts — and to do so more often.

The new feature is reminiscent of Instagram and Facebook "stories" and Snapchat's snaps, which let users post short-lived photos and messages. Such features are increasingly popular with social-media users looking for smaller groups and more private chats.

But Twitter often serves a different function than Instagram or Facebook, operating not only as a basis for conversation but as a platform for politicians and other public figures. Disappearing tweets could make it harder to hold such people accountable, monitor their posts and fact-check them.

Social media services often test new features in smaller markets before bringing them to the U.S. and elsewhere — if they do so at all. □

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A look at what happens when stocks enter a bear market

By **ALEX VEIGA**
AP Business Writer

Wall Street's staggering skid that began less than three weeks ago has pulled the Dow Jones Industrial Average into what's known as a bear market.

After a string of sharp losses, the Dow has now fallen more than 20% from its last peak on February 12.

The S&P 500, the index most investors pay attention to, moved within striking distance of its own bear market Wednesday, as did the Nasdaq. Both indexes are in a correction, down at least 10% from their most recent all-time highs.

Here are some common questions asked about bear markets and corrections and what they mean for average investors:

HOW IS A BEAR MARKET DIFFERENT FROM A MARKET CORRECTION?

A correction is Wall Street's term for an index like the S&P 500, the Dow Jones Industrial Average, or even an individual stock, that's fallen 10% or more from a recent high. A bear market occurs when the index or stock falls 20% or more from the peak for a sustained period of time.

Corrections are common during bull markets, and are considered normal and even healthy. They allow markets to remove speculative froth after a big run-up and give investors a chance to buy stocks at lower prices.



A board above the floor of the New York Stock Exchange shows the closing number for the Dow Jones Industrial Average, Wednesday, March 11, 2020.

Associated Press

The major U.S. stock indexes entered a correction this month amid mounting fears about the impact that the coronavirus outbreak could have on the global economy and company earnings growth. A oil market price war this week that led analysts to lower their profit forecasts for energy companies fueled more selling on Wall Street.

All told, the Dow fell 1,464.94 points Tuesday to 23,553.22. That's 20.3% below its record close of 29,551.42 on Feb. 12. The S&P 500 index slid 140.85 points to 2,741.38. It's now down 19% from its high of 3,386.15 on Feb. 19. The Nasdaq dropped 392.20 points to 7,952.05, or 19% below its peak of 9,817.18 on Feb. 19.

WHAT'S BOTHERING INVESTORS?

TORS?

The outbreak of the coronavirus that originated in China has quickly grown into a pandemic that is threatening major sectors of the global economy, stoking fear that the U.S. and other economies could be tipped into a recession.

Many companies, including airlines, cruise operators and big consumer technology manufacturers, have warned their earnings will take a hit this year due to the economic fallout from the outbreak.

Investors remain uncertain over whether action taken by the Federal Reserve and the Trump administration to shield the economy will be effective or arrive quickly enough to prevent widespread economic pain.

More recently, a sharp

drop in crude oil prices has further dimmed the overall outlook for corporate profits this year and next. Company profits tend to be the biggest driver of stock market gains.

HOW OFTEN DO MARKET CORRECTIONS BECOME BEAR MARKETS?

In the S&P 500, there have been 23 corrections since 1945 and 12 bear markets, not including the current near-bear market, said Sam Stovall, chief investment strategist for CFRA. That works out to corrections becoming bear markets a little less than 35% of the time.

Should the S&P 500 enter a bear market before April 11, it would mark the fastest drop of 20% by the index on record, Stovall said.

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME WE HAD A BEAR MARKET?

The last bear market for the S&P 500 ran from Oct. 9, 2007 through March 9, 2009. The index fell 56.8% in that 17-month period as the U.S. housing downturn and mortgage crisis erupted, triggering a credit crunch.

HOW LONG DO BEAR MARKETS LAST AND HOW DEEP DO THEY GO?

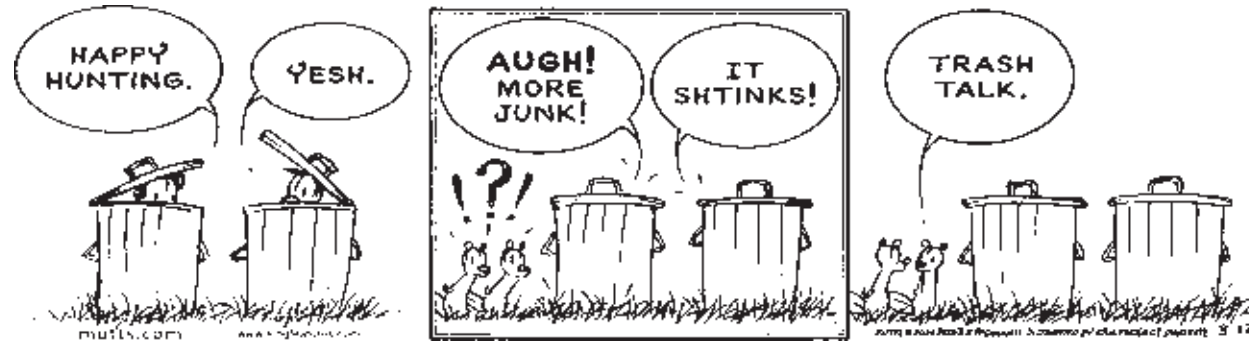
On average, bear markets have lasted 14 months in the period since World War II, while market corrections have lasted an average of five months. The S&P 500 index has fallen an average of 33% during bear markets in that time. The biggest decline since 1945 occurred in the 2007-2009 bear market. History shows that the faster an index enters into a bear market, the shorter they tend to be. Historically, stocks take 270 days to fall into a bear market. When the S&P 500 has fallen 20% at a faster clip, the index has averaged a loss of 26%, Stovall said.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS THAT A CORRECTION OR A BEAR MARKET HAS ENDED?

Generally, investors look for a 20% gain from a low point as well as sustained gains over at least a six-month period.

On average, bull markets last 4.5 years. In terms of the S&P 500, the current bull market has been going on for almost 11 years. □

Mutts



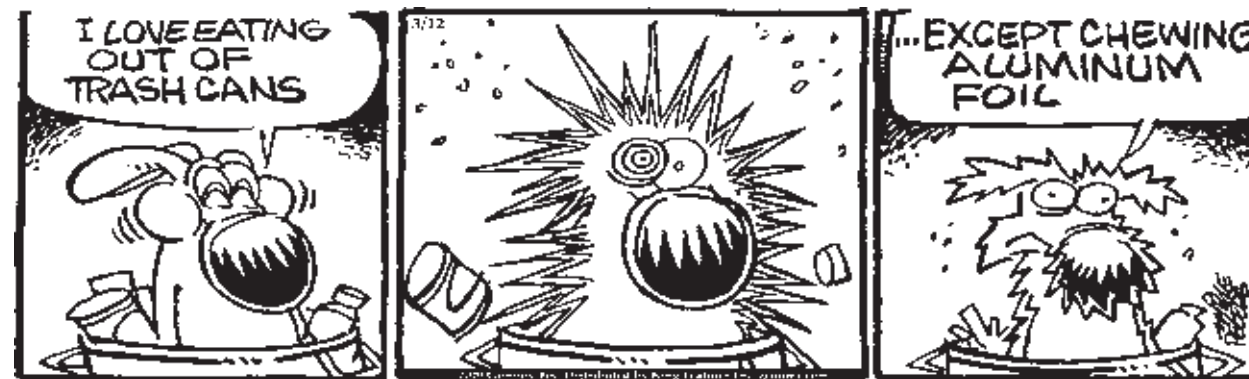
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	6	9		4			1	
5			8					7
3				7				
	5		2					
4		6				9		1
				4		8		
			8					2
8				6				5
	2		5		4	7		

Difficulty Level ★★★

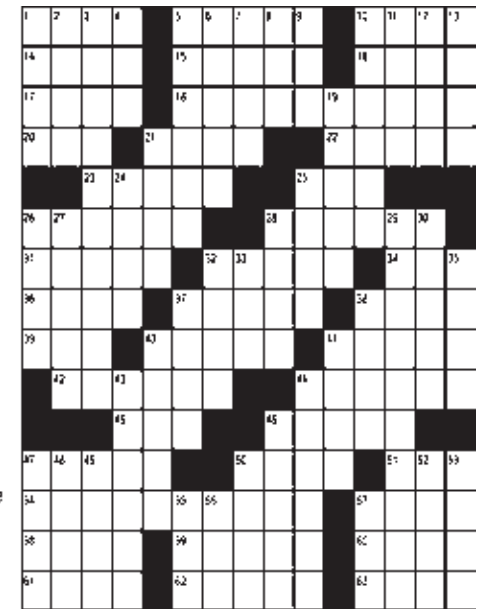
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

8	2	3	7	9	6	5	4	1
1	7	9	4	3	5	6	2	8
6	4	5	2	1	8	3	7	9
7	9	8	6	5	1	4	3	2
3	5	2	9	8	4	1	6	7
4	1	6	3	7	2	9	8	5
2	3	1	8	4	9	7	5	6
9	6	4	5	2	7	8	1	3
5	8	7	1	6	3	2	9	4

- ACROSS**
- Part of R & R
 - Socrates' last offer
 - Goosey ump
 - Airport in Paris
 - Fit for a king
 - Out of appropriate
 - Grows old
 - Lack of attention to one's duties
 - Knots or Rockies
 - National League team
 - Superior & Geneva
 - Emmyways
 - Sight switch
 - Pearl butter
 - Buyer's choice
 - Architectural style
 - Beds that sing in 19th
 - Virtual an aid
 - Org. for Kings & Senators
 - Big clubs
 - Baton, LA
 - My Country, 'Tis of
 - Our
 - Hunger pains
 - Self-confidence
 - Live a clear night sky
 - Visgrings
 - Actress West
 - Isle of Italian resort
 - Quaking tree
 - Dwindle
 - Egypt's boy king
 - Covering completely
 - Vela thread
 - Lack of jokes
 - Actor William
 - Swine
 - Prepares Easter eggs
 - Look of contempt
 - Individual's

- DOWN**
- On the traveling
 - Thus
 - Thimble
 - Cobb & Burne
 - Cross
 - Encounters
 - Breakfast order
 - My So
 - MacGraw or Larter
 - Whitener
 - Chain piece
 - Back in the day
 - Spelling contests
 - Flashiness
 - Many PTA members
 - Thousand, CA
 - Carry
 - Potter's maternal
 - Marathon
 - Musical's bookings
 - Personal fear
 - Bosom
 - Emaciated
 - Drag something heavy
 - Marvin & Mervin
 - Meriwether
 - Se'dom seen
 - Sightseeing Inc.
 - Apr. 1st antic
 - Cement, X or Plus XI
 - Yake show
 - Hazard
 - Narrow boat
 - Prapel: openers
 - Ki
 - Remove apple skins
 - Mrs
 - Strong desire
 - Actress Harper
 - Asner & Harris
 - Fawn's color
 - goes there? sorry's query



Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

3/12/20

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

GLIB	ALPS	ECHO
NAMED	BAIT	SHOW
AMPLE	OPERATION	
WEENED	AMENDS	
NOISE	WOE	
BRIARS	THUMBS	
LOTTO	SHEAR	ITS
AGES	BLEAT	DRAT
BUN	SLEEK	GOTTA
ETCHED	DASHER	
LOS	ROSES	
ABHORS	UNO	TOT
BEAUTIFUL	NAOMI	
LAND	NOSE	ERNIE
EDGY	GEAR	METS

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California AG drops challenge to T-Mobile- Sprint merger

By TALI ARBEL
AP Technology Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — California's attorney general said Wednesday that the state will not appeal a judge's decision approving T-Mobile's \$26.5 billion purchase of Sprint, bringing the companies closer to creating a new wireless giant on par with AT&T and Verizon in size. Attorney General Xavier Becerra and New York Attorney General Letitia James led a coalition of 14 state attorneys general who sued to stop the deal. They had argued that eliminating a major wireless company would harm consumers by reducing competition and adding billions of dollars to phone bills. The companies said the deal would benefit consumers by helping the companies build a better next-generation, 5G wireless network than each could do alone. The companies also said the deal would lead to lower prices, as they can better compete with the now-larger AT&T and Verizon. A federal judge in New York sided with the companies in February. New York decided a few days later not to appeal. Becerra said Wednesday that T-Mobile would reimburse the remaining 12 states and the District of Columbia up to \$15 million combined for the costs of investigating and litigating the antitrust case. He did not say how much the states spent. □

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Week 8/1113; 8/1409 (17k/Wk.);
Week 9/1218 (15k);
Week 10/1207 (15k);
Weeks 11&12/1419 (13k/Wk.);
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1 BR sleep 4 \$ 3 K
Date : 3/20/20 to 3/27/20

Marriott Ocean Club

Platinum Season
1BR Ocean View \$ 10 K
1 BR Ocean Front \$20 K
2 BR Ocean View \$17K
2 BR Ocean Front \$ 26 K

Marriott Surf Club

Platinum Season
2 BR Ocean View \$16K
2 BR Ocean side \$17K
2 BR Ocean Front \$26K
3 BR Ocean view \$28K

Aruba Divi Phoenix

2 BR PH wk 11/12 \$35 K each
Building 9 on the 7th floor
30 weeks remain

Divi Links Golf

Studio wk 5,7,8 \$8K each
Birdie 1 on ground floor
22/27/29 weeks remain

Divi Links Golf

Studio wk 5,6,7,8,9
Same room birdie 9
3rd floor 33 weeks remain
Each \$10 K each

Divi Links Golf

1 BR wk 8/9 \$9,5 K each
Eagle 9 ground floor
27 /19 weeks remain
1 BR wk 11 \$9 K
Birdie 3 with 26weeks remain

212587

Divi Links Golf

1 BR wk 12/13 \$9,5 K each
Birdie 10 ground floor
33/34 weeks remain
Divi Village
2 BR wk 13 \$14 K
Building C 28weeks remain

Renaissance suites

1 BR wk 9 \$7,5K
On the 4 th floor
Harbor view
Playa Linda beach Resort
Studio wk 10 and 11 \$25 K both
1st floor pool/ocean view

Dutch Village

1BR wk 9 old contract
16 weeks remain \$7,5K
1 BR wk 8 \$ 8 K
12 weeks remain

Dutch Village

1 BR wk 7 and 8 \$8K each
15 weeks remain each
2 BR wk 7 \$16K
23 weeks remain

Casa del Mar

1 BR wk 12 \$7,5 K
La cabana beach and casino
1 BR wk 11/12 \$8,5 K each
4th floor pool/ocean view
Sunday check in

Eagle Resorts

1 BR wk 7,8,9 \$7,5 K each
Le Vent Condo
3 BR , 2 Bath \$650 K

Caribbean Palm Village

1BR wk 13 \$6k each on sd floor
1BR wk14
Ground floor

Playa Linda

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San Nicolas:

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

Walk-In Doctor's Clinic

+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

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Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
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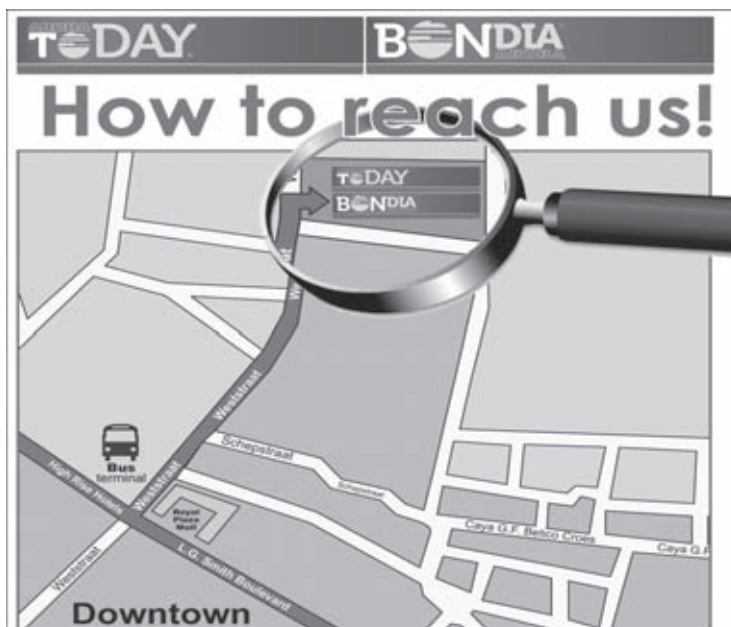
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Safety of Fukushima waste water focus of sea release debate

By MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

OKUMA, Japan (AP) — Inside a giant decontamination facility at the destroyed Fukushima nuclear power plant, workers in hazmat suits monitor radioactive water pumped from three damaged reactors, making sure it's adequately — though not completely — treated.

Three lines of equipment connected to pipes snaking around in this dimly lit, sprawling facility can process up to 750 tons of contaminated water a day. Four other lines elsewhere in the plant can process more.

From there, the water is pumped to a complex of about 1,000 temporary storage tanks that crowd the plant's grounds, where additional tanks are still being built. Officials say the huge tanks will be completely full by the summer of 2022.

The decontamination process, which The Associated Press viewed on a recent tour, is a key element of a contentious debate over what should be done with the nearly 1.2 million tons of still-radioactive water being closely watched by governments and organizations around the world ahead of this summer's Tokyo Olympics.

The plant's operator, Tokyo Electric Power Co., or TEPCO, says it needs to free up space as work to decommission the damaged reactors approaches a critical phase. It's widely expected that TEPCO will gradually release the water into the nearby ocean following a government decision allowing it to do so. The company is still vague on the timing.

But local residents, especially fishermen, are op-



In this Feb. 12, 2020, photo, a worker in a hazmat suit carries a hose while working at a water treatment facility at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant in Okuma, Fukushima Prefecture, Japan.

Associated Press

posed to the plan because they think the water release would hurt the reputation of already battered fisheries, where annual sales remain about half of the level before the nuclear accident, even though the catch has cleared strict radioactivity tests.

TEPCO Chief Decommissioning Officer Akira Ono says the water must be disposed as the plant's decommissioning moves forward because the area used by the tanks is needed to build facilities for the retrieval of melted reactor debris.

Workers are planning to remove a first batch of melted debris by December 2021. Remote control cranes are dismantling a highly contaminated exhaust tower near Unit 2, the first reactor to get its melted fuel removed. At Unit 3, spent fuel units are being removed from a cooling pool ahead of the removal

of melted fuel. The dilemma over the ever-growing radioactive water is part of the complex aftermath of the magnitude 9.0 earthquake and tsunami that hit on March 11, 2011, destroying key cooling functions at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant. Three reactors melted, releasing massive amounts of radiation and forcing 160,000 residents to evacuate. About 40,000 still haven't returned.

Except for the highly radioactive buildings that house the melted reactors, most above-ground areas of the plant can now be visited while wearing just a surgical mask, cotton gloves, a helmet and a personal dosimeter. The area right outside the plant is largely untouched and radiation levels are often higher.

The underground areas remain a hazardous mess. Radioactive cooling water is leaking from the melted reactors and mixes with groundwater, which must be pumped up to keep it from flowing into the sea and elsewhere. Separately, even more dangerously contaminated water sits in underground areas and leaks continuously into groundwater outside the plant, experts say.

The contaminated water pumped from under-

ground first goes through cesium and strontium removal equipment, after which most is recycled as cooling water for the damaged reactors. The rest is filtered by the main treatment system, known as ALPS, which is designed to remove all 62 radioactive contaminants except for tritium, TEPCO says.

Tritium cannot be removed from water and is virtually harmless when consumed in small amounts, according to Japan's industry ministry and nuclear regulatory officials.

But despite repeated official reassurances, there are widespread worries about eating fish that might be affected if the contaminated water is released into the sea. Katsumi Shozugawa, a radiology expert at the University of Tokyo who has been analyzing groundwater around the plant, said the long-term consequences of low-dose exposure in the food chain hasn't been fully investigated.

"At this point, it is difficult to predict a risk," he said. "Once the water is released into the environment, it will be very difficult to follow up and monitor its movement. So the accuracy of the data before any release is crucial and must be verified."

After years of discussions about what to do with the contaminated water without destroying the local economy and its reputation, a government panel issued a report earlier this year that narrowed the water disposal options to two: diluting the treated water to levels below the allowable safety limits and then releasing it into the sea in a controlled way, or allowing the water to evaporate in a years-long process.

The report also urged the government to do more to fight the "reputational damage" to Fukushima fishing and farm produce, for instance by promoting food fairs, developing new sales routes and making use of third-party quality accreditation systems.

TEPCO and government officials promise the plant will treat the water for a second time to meet legal requirements before any release. At the end of the tour of the treatment facility, a plant official showed a glass bottle containing clear water taken from the processing equipment. Workers are required to routinely collect water samples for analysis at laboratories at the plant. Radiology technicians were analyzing the water at one lab, where AP journalists were not allowed to enter. Officials say the treated water will be diluted with fresh water before it is released into the environment.

Doubts about the plant's water treatment escalated two years ago when TEPCO acknowledged that most of the water stored in the tanks still contains cancer-causing cesium, strontium and other radioactive materials at levels exceeding safety limits.

Masumi Kowata, who lives in Okuma, a town where part of the plant is located, said some of her neighbors are offering their land so that more storage tanks can be built.

"We should not dump the water until we have proof about its safety," she said. "The government says it's safe, but how do we know?" □

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Weinstein gets 23 years in sentence hailed by accusers

By **MICHAEL R. SISK, TOM HAYS and JENNIFER PELTZ**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Harvey Weinstein pleaded for mercy and said he was "totally confused" by the sex crime case that got him sentenced Wednesday to 23 years in prison, capping the onetime Hollywood mogul's #MeToo downfall.

His accusers — those who testified against him and many others who have spoken out elsewhere against the former Hollywood mogul — hailed the near-maximum punishment for his rape and criminal sex act convictions as long overdue.

Weinstein, 67, broke his courtroom silence to say he felt "remorse for this situation." But he also argued that men are being accused of "things that none of us understood."

"Thousands of men are losing due process. I'm worried about this country," he said in a calm but creaking voice. "I'm totally confused. I think men are confused about these issues."

Weinstein has been accused of violating scores of women. He was convicted last month of raping a once-aspiring actress in a New York City hotel room in 2013 and forcibly performing oral sex on former TV and film production assistant Mimi Haley



Harvey Weinstein arrives at a Manhattan courthouse as jury deliberations continue in his rape trial, Monday, Feb. 24, 2020, in New York.

at his apartment in 2006. He faced a maximum of 29 years in prison.

The conviction marked the first criminal fallout from a raft of allegations that the Oscar-winning movie producer used his clout to lure women, sexually assault or harass them and then silence them.

"Although this is a first conviction, this is not a first offense," Judge James Burke said before revealing the prison sentence.

Both of the women Weinstein was convicted of assaulting told the court about the impact he had

on their lives, and the empowerment they felt when testifying against him.

"Rape is not just one moment of penetration. It is forever," said the 2013 rape accuser, who recalled a moment during the trial when she left the witness stand in tears and then could be heard screaming from an adjacent room.

It was, she said, "the day my voice came back to its full power," she said.

Asked later about her reaction after the sentence, she wiped her eyes, raised her arm and nodded her head. The Associated Press typi-

cally does not name people, without their consent, who say they were sexually assaulted. It is withholding the rape accuser's name because it is not clear whether she wishes to be identified.

Haleyi broke down in tears as she told the court the 2006 attack scarred her deeply and "stripped me of my dignity as a woman." The encounter made her rethink her career in the entertainment business and left her feeling afraid of retaliation, she said.

Weinstein, who has maintained that any sexual

activity was consensual, showed no visible reaction to the sentence.

Beforehand, he gave a rambling speech that touched on his past charitable fund-raising, his film-making career and a pledge that his new "mission is to help people." He said his "empathy has grown" since his downfall.

He said he had thought he had good friendships with Haley and the rape accuser, who exchanged warm emails with him after the alleged attacks.

The rape accuser testified that she maintained a flattering, friendly tone with Weinstein because she thought it safer not to be seen as threatening.

Years of whispers about Weinstein's alleged behavior burst into public view in The New York Times and The New Yorker in 2017. In the aftermath, more than 90 women, including Gwyneth Paltrow, Salma Hayek and other actresses, publicly accused Weinstein of sexual assault and sexual harassment. The takedown energized the #MeToo movement for speaking up about sexual assault.

Time's Up, an organization created in the wake of #MeToo, on Wednesday hailed the women who testified against him for "the impact that they have had on our culture at large." □

Associated Press

Coachella festival postponed as concerts grapple with virus

By **MESFIN FEKADU**
Associated Press

The uber-popular Coachella music festival has been postponed from its usual two-weekend-run in April to October due to concerns about the growing coronavirus. The festival's producer Goldenvoice made the announcement Tuesday, also confirming that Stagecoach, a country music festival, will also be postponed. Coachella, held in Southern California, will now take place on Oct. 9-11 and Oct. 16-18, while Stagecoach will take place Oct. 23-25.

"At the direction of the County of Riverside and

local health authorities, we must sadly confirm the rescheduling of Coachella and Stagecoach due to COVID-19 concerns. While this decision comes at a time of universal uncertainty, we take the safety and health of our guests, staff and community very seriously. We urge everyone to follow the guidelines and protocols put forth by public health officials," Goldenvoice said in a statement.

The company said all passes for original dates will be honored for the rescheduled shows, and customers will be notified by Friday on how to obtain a refund



This April 13, 2012 file photo shows festivalgoers running toward the main stage at the 2012 Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in Indio, Calif.

if they cannot attend. Rage Against the Ma-

chine, Travis Scott and Frank Ocean were origi-

Associated Press

nally announced as headliners of Coachella; Goldenvoice didn't say if the performance lineup would change or stay intact. Others announced to perform include Calvin Harris, Lana Del Rey, Thom Yorke, 21 Savage, Disclosure, Summer Walker, Lil Uzi Vert and FKA twigs.

Riverside County, which has six coronavirus cases, declared a public health emergency on Sunday.

"No doubt it will impact many people, but my top priority is to protect the health of the entire community," said Riverside County Public Health Officer Dr. Cameron Kaiser. □



This image released by Universal Pictures shows Betty Gilpin in a scene from "The Hunt."

Associated Press

Review: 'The Hunt' is a clunky swipe at a divided America

By **MARK KENNEDY**
Associated Press

Fittingly, few films in recent memory arrive with a bigger target on its back than "The Hunt." Our quick advice? Lower your weapons. The horror-thriller with a healthy side of political commentary was pulled from release last summer following backlash to its trailer depicting a group of wealthy, liberal Americans kidnapping and hunting down red-state stereotypes for fun. Some commentators — including the president of the United States — were quick to criticize the film in the wake of several mass shooting despite never seeing it, denouncing the notion of elitist Democrats brutally killing so-called "deplorables." And, to be sure, it does depict that. But anyone who actually watches the whole film will clearly be rooting for the deplorables.

It's not the Right but the Left that comes off far worse in "The Hunt." The hunters are smug, NPR-listening, kimo-no-wearing, caviar-eating, anti-gun killers who seek approval on Twitter from Ava DuVernay and hide their venality in humanitarian causes.

"For the record, climate change is real!" one liberal screams at a prone victim before smashing his head open. Drinking a full sugar soda is anathema for this group, who are finicky and smug. "Who has the hand sanitizer?" one asks while waiting to kill fellow Americans.

Right-wingers are mocked as well, to be sure. One character brings up the "deep state" and is convinced that a group of migrants he encounters includes "crisis babies." Sean Hannity gets name-checked by another.

Gilpin in a scene from "The Hunt" (Patti Perret/Universal Pictures via AP)

The script was written by Damon Lindelof, who created "Watchmen" and "The Leftovers," and Nick Cuse, a writer on both projects. Craig Zobel, who

directed the post-apocalyptic survivalist tale "Z for Zachariah," takes the helm. Originally scheduled to be released in September, the film comes out now as political winds are blowing ever stronger. It really isn't sturdy enough not to be ripped to shreds.

The filmmakers have created an uneasy and often awkward mix of murderous violence and social commentary, with one element often stepping on the other. Not many films can combine George Orwell references and a vicious stabbing with a meat thermometer. It's all as subtle as a bear trap.

When the dust settles, "The Hunt" really stars Betty Gilpin (from Netflix's "GLOW") and Hilary Swank ("Million Dollar Baby"). Each represent opposite sides of the political divide. Both are smart, dangerous and resourceful.

The film starts with a dozen people waking up in what appears to be a central Arkansas clearing, deposited there by ruthless, urban sophisticates. They've been drugged and gagged and soon they are armed, presumably to make the hunt more exciting.

The victims bear all the markings of boilerplate blue-collar red-staters — mom jeans, work boots and vet caps, everyone grizzled and unfashionable. "We need to lean into the stereotype," one character says during the movie and the filmmakers have done that in spades.

Most members of the hunted group never learn each other's names and you shouldn't get too attached either. To put it another way, actors Emma Roberts, Justin Hartley, Ike Barinholtz and Sturgill Simpson were probably paid by the hour.

Mayhem ensues as the group is picked off one by one, until Gilpin's character emerges as the film's gutsy heroine and takes the film by the scruff of its neck. "The Hunt" later ham-handedly tries to explain why the dozen victims were

selected and then switches to the viewpoint of the six hunters, who — thanks to a calm and efficient Gilpin — are becoming the hunted. (Universal Pictures via AP) The concept of hunting humans for sport has a long history, stretching back to Richard Connell's 1924 short story "The Most Dangerous Game." It's reliable grist for movies exploring the divide between rich and poor, most recently in "The Hunger Games" franchise and last year's "Ready or Not." This time, the divide is exacerbated by the left-right divide the movie itself has added.

A satirical feature film is hard to pull off and the filmmakers here have learned that a trailer for a satirical film is even harder. The balancing act is subtle for both and context is crucial. Jonathan Swift, one of the best at poking fun at society, called satire a tricky mirror where you see what you want: "Satire is a sort of glass, wherein beholders do generally discover everybody's face but their own."

"The Hunt" is not great satire or even a great film. It's an unstylish and heavy-handed horror-thriller that turns into a revenge gore-fest as it mocks everyone with a big clumsy paw. It balks at making any grand conclusions about the state of America or how to heal our divisions, unless there's a message in the red-state character played by Gilpin cauterizing her torso wound with a high-end, blue-state kitchen torch.

Toward the end, "The Hunt" warns us to be careful not to jump to conclusions about others or believe in dark internet conspiracies. That's supremely ironic, given what happened to this film. Anyway, it's too late. These are not healthy days for satire, no matter how clownish.

"The Hunt," a Universal Pictures release, is rated R for strong bloody violence and language throughout. Running time: 90 minutes. Two stars out of four. □

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PBP	MON-FRI 4:25 6:55 9:25
	SAT-SUN 1:55 4:25 6:55 9:25
CXC	MON-THU 5:20 7:50
	FRI 5:20 7:50 10:20
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	SUN 2:50 5:20 7:50

DAVE BAUTISTA | CHLOE COLEMAN

MY SPY

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	SUN 3:50 6:10 8:30
PBP	MON-THU 5:10 7:30
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VIP	SAT 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00
	SUN 2:50 5:10 7:30
PBP	MON-FRI 4:40 7:00 9:20
	SAT-SUN 2:20 4:40 7:00 9:20

BRITT ROBERTSON | K.J. APA

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	SUN 3:25 6:00 8:35
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	FRI 3:55 6:30 9:05 11:35
	SAT 1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05 11:35
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TOM HOLLAND | CHRIS PRATT

ONWARD

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PH	MON-THU 5:50 8:10
	FRI 5:50 8:10 10:30
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PBP	MON-FRI 4:20 6:40 9:00
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PBP	MON-FRI 4:30 6:50
	SAT-SUN 2:10 4:30 6:50

ELISABETH MOSS | ALDIS HODGE

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Katherine Schwarzenegger Pratt's book tackles forgiveness

By ALICIA RANCILIO

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Katherine Schwarzenegger Pratt has made a career of writing what she knows, from teaching about healthy body image to grappling with entering the real world after graduating college.

Her latest book, "The Gift of Forgiveness: Inspiring Stories from Those Who Have Overcome the Unforgivable," is a deep dive into various stories on forgiveness. Schwarzenegger Pratt, the eldest child of actor and politician Arnold Schwarzenegger and broadcast journalist Maria Shriver, writes in the book that she came up with the idea when struggling with how to forgive a friend who she had a falling out with.

She interviewed 22 people, including kidnapping victim Elizabeth Smart and Tanya Brown, the sister of murder victim Nicole Brown Simpson, and Sebastian Marroquin, the son of drug kingpin Pablo Escobar, about their own experiences with forgiveness.

Schwarzenegger Pratt says the biggest lesson learned is that forgiveness is not a one-size-fits-all process.

"There isn't one way to forgive, there's not a right way, a wrong way, there's only your way," she said. "I would never be able to tell somebody how to practice forgiveness specifically in their lives because it's so unique to their situation."

In an interview with The



This March 9, 2020 photo shows Katherine Schwarzenegger Pratt posing for a portrait in New York to promote her book "The Gift of Forgiveness: Inspiring Stories from Those Who Have Overcome the Unforgivable."

Associated Press, Schwarzenegger Pratt talked about writing, advocating for animals, and of course, forgiveness.

AP: You talk to people for the book who've experienced some pretty heavy circumstances. Were you nervous to do those interviews?

Schwarzenegger Pratt: You're always nervous when interviewing people that you don't know about a topic that's very intense like forgiveness. I reached out to everybody and didn't know anyone beforehand and just blindly asked them if they would be willing to sit down and talk to me about forgiveness. I went into every single

interview not knowing how much they would open up or what they would give me in the interview and every single person was just so incredible to talk to, so inspiring and raw and open and vulnerable.

AP: What did you ultimately take away on forgiveness?

Schwarzenegger Pratt: For some people it comes very easily and naturally and they can just decide to forgive someone and be done with it. And for a lot of people, myself included, it's an ongoing process. So, it's about being OK with it.

AP: Did you want to be a writer growing up?

Schwarzenegger Pratt: I always would write in journals when I was younger and

found it very helpful for myself and therapeutic. If you had asked me when I was 10 years old if I would be writing books, I don't know that I would say that, but I think it's been such a blessing for me in my life. I've been able to take situations and topics that I have struggled with and have looked at others struggling with and it's driven me to write about these topics to help other people.

AP: Your dad is Arnold Schwarzenegger. Your mom is Maria Shriver and a member of the Kennedy family. You must've met so many notable people throughout your life. Is there anyone you haven't met yet?

Schwarzenegger Pratt: I don't actually know who that would be. A lot of times I think of people who are no longer on this earth that I would like to spend extra time with and I often will think about my grandma, especially as I've gotten older. When you're little you kind of take your grandparents for granted and when you're older you wish you could go back and talk to them about certain life things. So that's probably who I would think about — both my grandparents — to have more time with.

AP: You do a lot of animal advocacy and you have your own dog, Maverick, whom you've written a children's book about. Plus, you have a farm with your husband, actor Chris Pratt. Talk about why animals are so important to you.

Schwarzenegger Pratt: I've always been a big animal lover. When I adopted my dog, Maverick, and became introduced to the animal rescue world, it was such a blessing for me. To be a voice for the voiceless and advocate on their behalf is a really important thing for me.

AP: You're embarking on a book tour. Is it hard to leave Maverick at home?

Schwarzenegger Pratt: Yes, but he has the greatest family support system. My mom is amazing with him and my sister, Christina, takes him for sleepovers and I'm so grateful. □

Leslie Marmon Silko wins \$100,000 prize from arts academy

By HILLEL ITALIE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Leslie Marmon Silko, winner of a lifetime achievement award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, sees universal reach in her writings about her Laguna Pueblo heritage.

"I'm especially proud of asserting the notion that we indigenous people are citizens of the world," she said in a recent telephone interview. "I've tried in my fiction to reflect that we

have the same underpinnings, mythologically, that the Greeks and Romans and Scandinavians have given to the culture."

The academy announced Wednesday that the 72-year-old Silko is this year's winner of the Christopher Lightfoot Walker Award for "significant contribution" to American literature. A key member of the so-called "Native American Renaissance" that began in the 1960s, she is known for her po-

ems and stories and for such novels as "Ceremony" and "Almanac of the Dead." She said winning the Walker award encouraged her about the current state of reading.

"It has seemed that literature and books and writing have gone into decline in the digital age," she said. "I had forgotten that there are people who still love literature, serious literature."

The Lightfoot award is a biannual prize first given in

2018 to Thomas Pynchon. The academy awarded prizes to 19 writers overall, 13 of them women. The honors include \$10,000 prizes for "exceptional achievement" to Viet Thanh Nguyen, Wayne Koestenbaum, Marie Arana, Sandra Lim and four others. Author and foreign correspondent Janine di Giovanni won the \$25,000 Blake-Dodd prize for non-fiction, Christine Schutt received the \$20,000 Katherine Anne Porter Award

for prose writing and Mary Ruefle won the \$20,000 Arthur Rense Poetry Prize. Valeria Luiselli received a \$10,000 prize for "a young writer of considerable literary talent" for her novel "Lost Children Archive." The E.M. Forster Award, a \$10,000 honor for an outstanding young writer from Ireland or the United Kingdom, was given to the Belfast poet Stephen Sexton.

The academy is an honor society founded in 1898. □

Bringing it home: Find inspiration in public spaces' décor

By **MELISSA RAYWORTH**
Associated Press

Sometimes, sitting in a public place like a hotel lobby, you notice a mix of colors you'd never considered using in your own home — and you realize you absolutely love it.

Or you see furniture that's much more modern than you thought you liked, but it's just what your living room needs.

Interior designers say clients often tell them about public places with style they want at home. This can function as a useful shorthand, says Lauren Buxbaum Gordon, design director and partner at Nate Berkus Associates, who designs commercial and residential spaces.

"If somebody tells us they love the Park Hyatt in New York versus the Greenwich Hotel," Gordon says, "we know we've got a good place to start with them."

It's not about trying to duplicate that space's style. It's more about specific elements — the flow of the space, or the lighting, or "the coziness factor" — that you'd like to emulate.

If a client loves a certain resort in Mexico, Gordon says, that style is "probably not going to translate to Chicago, exactly. But we try to tap into some of the details: If they're responding to wicker woven chairs, we can certainly incorporate details like that."

Northern Virginia-based interior designer Tracy Morris agrees: If you fall in love with the design of a sleek, modern dance club in Miami, that's worth noting. And though bringing that entire style home to a traditional Georgian house might not work, Morris says, you can bring in "cleaner-lined pieces of furniture" to get a bit of that style.

We've asked Gordon, Morris, and Los Angeles-based designer Betsy Burnham for advice on the best ways to make this happen.

LIGHTING YOU LOVE

"There are so many different layers of lighting in restaurants," Morris says. "In a house, most people only have two: the overhead lights, and then maybe a



This 2019 photo shows the inside of andSons Chocolatiers in Beverly Hills, Calif., which was designed by Lauren Buxbaum Gordon and Nate Berkus.

Associated Press



This 2019 photo shows the inside of andSons Chocolatiers in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

lamp or two."

So, notice which restaurants have lighting that pleases you, and see how they do it: Does the space have "cove lighting," meaning things like strip lighting tucked out of view underneath cabinets or other indirect light?

Take photos of light fixtures that appeal to you, and considering adding types of lighting you don't have.

NOTICE CHAIRS AND TABLES Is there a restaurant where you'd be happy to sit for hours and talk with friends? That's the way you want your dining room to feel,

says Burnham, and often it comes down to choosing the right chairs — in terms of style and comfort.

So, take note the next time you're enjoying a restaurant: Are the chairs fully upholstered, or made of wood or metal, or a mix of these? Do they have arms, and is that important for your comfort?

Also, consider table shapes: Many of Burnham's clients love the long, narrow communal dining tables that have become popular in restaurants — something they might not have thought of otherwise for

of fabric. "Everybody talks thread count," Morris says, but find out whether the hotel sheets that impress you are percale or bamboo or jersey or something else. "Bamboo sheets are really silky and soft," she says, "compared to the really crisp nature of percale."

Another bonus when staying in a beautiful hotel room: Take a good look at the tiles in the bathroom. Hotel bathrooms "tend to be a little over-designed," Burnham says. But you may notice a nice tile arrangement. "Or you could love the use of a small-scale tile on the floor versus a large-scale stone on the wall."

If you take photos "and you really think about it while you're experiencing it," she says, "you can bring a lot of that home with you."

Want one more finishing touch? High-end hotels and restaurants are often subtly scented with a signature fragrance, Morris says. If you find out that one delights you, ask the staff if they can find out what it is. If they tell you the space is flavored with vanilla, Morris says, you go to a home retailer "and you buy yourself a vanilla candle. You do not need tons of money to make this happen."

And if you love a particular public space, don't hesitate to ask the staff who designed it. You can get the designer's name, follow them on Instagram and perhaps even direct message them a question.

"I have people reaching out to me all the time on Instagram asking me questions," Gordon says. □



This 2019 photo shows the inside of andSons Chocolatiers in Beverly Hills, Calif., which was designed by Lauren Buxbaum Gordon and Nate Berkus.

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